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(71) Applicant (for all designated States except US:: D A'S [DK:DK]: Langebrogade 1, P.O. Box 17, Copenhagen K (DK).	ANISC DK-100	O CM, GA, GN, ML, MR, NE, SN, TD, TG) Published
(72) Inventor; and		With international search report.
(72) Inventor; and (75) Inventor/Applicant (for US only): POULSEN, Peter [1 Holsteinsgade 52, 3, DK-2100 Cepenhagen K (DK		
(74) Agents: HARDING, Charles, Thomas et al.; D. Youn 21 New Fetter Lane, London EC4A 1DA (GB).	g & Co	With an indication in relation to a deposited microorganism furnished under Rule 13bb separately from the description.
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(54) Title: INHIBITION OF GENE EXPRESSION

(57) Abstract

A method of inhibiting gene expression is described. The method, which affects enzymatic activity in a plant, comprises expressing in a plant (or a ceil, a tissue or an organ thereof) a nucleotide sequence wherein the nucleotide sequence codes, partially or completely, for an intron in a sense orientation; and wherein the nucleotide sequence does not contain a sequence that is sense to an exon sequence normally associated with the intron.

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CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER
C 6 C12N15/82 C12N15/79 C12N15/54 A01H5/00 According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC **B** FIELDS SEARCHED Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols) C12N A01H IPC 6 Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields rearched Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practical, search terms used-C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT Relevant to claim No. Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages Cazgory 1 1-7 WO 90 12084 A (DNA PLANT TECHN CORP) 18 Χ October 1990 see page 9, line 17 see page 11, line 25 - page 12, line 11 1.4-6WO 92 13090 A (GEN HOSPITAL CORP) 6 August X see the whole document 19 WO 92 14827 A (INST GENBIOLOGISCHE FORSCHUNG) 3 September 1992 1-10, see the whole document 15-18, 20-22 Patent family members are listed in annex İΧ Further documents are listed in the continuation of box C. X (T) later d nument published after the international filing date or priority date and not in conflict with the application but died to understand the principle of the incumulationing the most of the principle. * Special categories of cited documents : (A) document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance. invention. (X) document of particular refevance. The trained intention cannot be connected moves or cultion the connected to involve an inventive step when the document is taken abone. eartier document but published on or after the international fairing date document which may throw doubts on priority claims) of which is cited to establish the publication date of another Y document of particular relevance, i.e. numed insention cannot be considered to involve an invention step when the document is combined with one or in resolver viain discu-ments, such combination being observable to a permit samed to the ord. diagon or other special reason (as specified) (0) discurrent reterring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or ಂದುರ ರಾಚನಿಸಿ document published prior to the international filing date but later than the priority date claimed. *£* document member () the same patent (arral). Date of mining of the international search fro ff Date of the actual completion of the international search 0 8.04.97 17 December 1996 Authorized officer Name and mailing address of the ISA European Patent Office, P.B. SEIN Patentiain 2 NL - 2280 HV Risswick Tel. (- 21/10) 340/2040, Tx. 31 651 epo nl. Fax: (N. 11/10) 340/3016

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I---- national application No

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Box I Observations where certain claims were	re found unsearchable (Continuation of item 1 of first sheet)
This International Search Report has not ocen estab	clished in respect of derean claims under Article 17/20/at for the following reasons
Claims Nos.: because they relate to subject matter not re	Educed to be sewaned by this Authority, namely
2. Claums Nes	
an extent that no meaningful International	ional Application that do not comply with the prescribed reducements to such Search can be carried out, specifically
2. Claims Nos.: - Secause they are dependent claims and are:	not crarted in accordance with the second and third sentences of Rule 6.4(a).
Box II Observations where unity of invention i	s lacking (Continuation of item 2 of first sheet)
This International Searching Authority found mutte	ie inventions in this international application, as follows
see continuation-sheet	
As all required applituonal search fees were to searchable claims	imely bald by the applicant, this International Search Report covers all
As all searchable claims could be searches a of any additional fee	somout effort, usursing an additional fee, this Authority did not invite payment
As only some or the required additional seal covers only those claims for which ices were.	ron fees were umery paid by the applicant, this International Search Reports of paid, specifically claims Nos.
2 X No required anditional search fees were time restricted to the invention first mentioned in	ely paid by the applicant. Consequently, this International Search Report is: the claims, it is covered by claims Nos.
	letely) and 16-19 (all partially)
Remark on Protest	The additional search ices were accompanied by the applicant's protest. No protest accompanied the payment of additional search fees.

International Application No. PCT/EP 96/ 03053

FURTHER INFORMATION CONTINUED FROM PCT/ISA/210

- 1. Claims: 1-10,15,20,21,22 (all completely) and 16-19 (all partially) Method for affecting enzyme/protein activity using sense intron sequences, particularly affecting SBE, amylopectin levels or starch composition.
- 2. Claims: 11-14 (all completely) and 16-19 (all partially) Method for tissue specific expression of transgenes using the SBE promoter of Seq. ID.14.

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(54) Title: INHIBITION OF GENE EXPRESSION

(57) Abstract

A method of inhibiting gene expression is described. The method, which affects enzymatic activity in a plant, comprises expressing in a plant (or a cell, a tissue or an organ thereof) a nucleotide sequence wherein the nucleotide sequence codes, partially or completely, for an intron in a sense orientation; and wherein the nucleotide sequence does not contain a sequence that is sense to an exon sequence normally associated vith the intron.

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INHIBITION OF GENE EXPRESSION

The present invention relates to a method of inhibiting gene expression, particularly inhibiting gene expression in a plant. The present invention also relates to a nucleotide sequence useful in the method. In addition, the present invention relates to a promoter that is useful for expressing the nucleotide sequence.

Starch is one of the main storage carbohydrates in plants, especially higher plants. The structure of starch consists of amylose and amylopectin. Amylose consists essentially of straight chains of α -1-4-linked glycosyl residues. Amylopectin comprises chains of α -1-4-linked glycosyl residues with some α -1-6 branches. The branched nature of amylopectin is accomplished by the action of *inter alia* an enzyme commonly known as the starch branching enzyme ("SBE"). SBE catalyses the formation of branch points in the amylopectin molecule by adding α -1.4 glucans through α -1.6-glucosidic branching linkages. The biosynthesis of amylose and amylopectin is schematically shown in Figure 1, whereas the α -1-4-links and the α -1-6 links are shown in Figure 2.

It is known that starch is an important raw material. Starch is widely used in the food, paper, and chemical industries. However, a large fraction of the starches used in these industrial applications are post-harvest modified by chemical, physical or enzymatic methods in order to obtain starches with certain required functional properties.

Within the past few years it has become desirable to make genetically modified plants which could be capable of producing modified starches which could be the same as the post-harvest modified starches. It is also known that it may be possible to prepare such genetically modified plants by expression of antisense nucleotide coding sequences. In this regard, June Bourque provides a detailed summary of antisense strategies for the genetic manipulations in plants (Bourque 1995 Plant Science 105 pp 125-149).

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Whilst it is known that enzymatic activity can be affected by expression of particular nucleotide sequences (for example see the teachings of Finnegan and McElroy [1994] Biotechnology 12 883-888; and Matzke and Matzke [1995] TIG 11 1-3) there is still a need for a method that can more reliably and/or more efficiently and/or more specifically affect enzymatic activity.

According to a first aspect of the present invention there is provided a method of affecting enzymatic activity in a plant (or a cell, a tissue or an organ thereof) comprising expressing in the plant (or a cell, a tissue or an organ thereof) a nucleotide sequence wherein the nucleotide sequence partially or completely codes (is) an intron in a sense orientation; and wherein the nucleotide sequence does not contain a sequence that is a sense exon sequence normally associated with the intron.

According to a second aspect of the present invention there is provided a method of affecting enzymatic activity in a starch producing organism (or a cell, a tissue or an organ thereof) comprising expressing in the starch producing organism (or a cell, a tissue or an organ thereof) a nucleotide sequence wherein the nucleotide sequence codes, partially or completely, for an intron in a sense orientation: wherein the nucleotide sequence does not contain a sequence that is sense to an exon sequence normally associated with the intron; and wherein starch branching enzyme activity is affected and/or the levels of amylopectin are affected and/or the composition of starch is changed.

According to a third aspect of the present invention there is provided a sequence comprising the nucleotide sequence shown as any one of SEQ.I.D. No. 1 to SEQ.I.D. No. 13 or a variant, derivative or homologue thereof.

According to a fourth aspect of the present invention there is provided a promoter comprising the sequence shown as SEQ.I.D. No. 14 or a variant, derivative or homologue thereof.

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According to a fifth aspect of the present invention there is provided a construct capable of comprising or expressing the present invention.

According to a sixth aspect of the present invention there is provided a vector comprising or expressing the present invention.

According to a seventh aspect of the present invention there is provided a cell, tissue or organ comprising or expressing the present invention.

- According to an eighth aspect of the present invention there is provided a transgenic starch producing organism comprising or expressing the present invention. According to a ninth aspect of the present invention there is provided a starch obtained from the present invention.
- According to a tenth aspect of the present invention there is provided pBEA11 (NCIMB 40754). According to an eleventh aspect of the present invention there is provided a sense nucleotide sequence that is obtainable from λ -SBE 3.2 (NCIMB 40751) or λ -SBE 3.4 (NCIMB 40752) or a variant, derivative or homologue thereof.
- A key advantage of the present invention is that it provides a method for preparing modified starches that is not dependent on the need for post-harvest modification of starches. Thus the method of the present invention obviates the need for the use of hazardous chemicals that are normally used in the post-harvest modification of starches.
 - In addition, the present invention provides interalia genetically modified plants which are capable of producing modified and/or novel and/or improved starches whose properties would satisfy various industrial requirements.
- Thus, the present invention provides a method of preparing tailor-made starches in plants which could replace the post-harvest modified starches.

Also, the present invention provides a method that enables modified starches to be prepared by a method that can have a more beneficial effect on the environment than the known post-harvest modification methods which are dependent on the use of hazardous chemicals and large quantities of energy.

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An other key advantage of the present invention is that it provides a method that may more reliably and/or more efficiently and/or more specifically affect enzymatic activity when compared to the known methods of affecting enzymatic activity. With regard to this advantage of the present invention it is to be noted that there is some degree of homology between coding regions of SBEs. However, there is little or no homology with the intron sequences of SBEs. Thus, sense intron expression provides a mechanism to affect selectively the expression of a particular SBE. This advantageous aspect could be used, for example, to reduce or eliminate a particular SBE enzyme and replace that enzyme with another enzyme which can be another branching enzyme or even a recombinant version of the affected enzyme or even a hybrid enzyme which could for example comprise part of a SBE enzyme from one source and at least a part of another SBE enzyme from another source. This particular feature of the present invention is covered by the combination aspect of the present invention which is discussed in more detail later.

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Thus the present invention provides a mechanism for selectively affecting SBE activity. This is in contrast to the prior art methods which are dependent on the use of for example antisense exon expression whereby it would not be possible to introduce new SBE activity without affecting that activity as well.

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Preferably with the first aspect of the present invention starch branching enzyme activity is affected and/or wherein the levels of amylopectin are affected and/or the composition of starch is changed.

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Preferably with the first or second aspect of the present invention the nucleotide sequence does not contain a sequence that is sense to an exon sequence.

Preferably with the fourth aspect of the present invention the promoter is in combination with a gene of interest ("GOI").

Preferably the enzymatic activity is reduced or eliminated.

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Preferably the nucleotide sequence codes for at least substantially all of at least one intron in a sense orientation.

Preferably the nucleotide sequence codes, partially or completely, for two or more introns and wherein each intron is in a sense orientation.

Preferably the nucleotide sequence comprises at least 350 nucleotides (e.g. 350 bp), more preferably at least 500 nucleotides (e.g. 500 bp).

Preferably the nucleotide sequence comprises the sequence shown as any one of SEQ. I.D. No. 1 to SEQ.I.D. No. 13 or a variant, derivative or homologue thereof, including combinations thereof.

Preferably the nucleotide sequence is expressed by a promoter having a sequence shown as SEQ. I.D. No. 14 or a variant, derivative or homologue thereof.

Preferably the transgenic starch producing organism is a plant.

A preferred aspect of the present invention therefore relates to a method of affecting enzymatic activity in a plant (or a cell, a tissue or an organ thereof) comprising expressing in the plant (or a cell, a tissue or an organ thereof) a nucleotide sequence wherein the nucleotide sequence codes, partially or completely, for an intron in a sense orientation; wherein the nucleotide sequence does not contain a sequence that is sense to an exon sequence normally associated with the intront and wherein stated branching enzyme activity is affected and/or the levels of ampliques a are interized and/or the composition of starch is changed.

A more preferred aspect of the present invention therefore relates to a method of affecting enzymatic activity in a plant (or a cell, a tissue or an organ thereof) comprising expressing in the plant (or a cell, a tissue or an organ thereof) a nucleotide sequence wherein the nucleotide sequence codes, partially or completely, for an intron in a sense orientation: wherein the nucleotide sequence does not contain a sequence that is sense to an exon sequence normally associated with the intron: wherein starch branching enzyme activity is affected and/or the levels of amylopectin are affected and/or the composition of starch is changed; and wherein the nucleotide sequence comprises the sequence shown as any one of SEQ.I.D. No. 1 to SEQ.I.D. No. 13 or a variant, derivative or homologue thereof, including combinations thereof.

The term "nucleotide" in relation to the present invention includes DNA and RNA. Preferably it means DNA, more preferably DNA prepared by use of recombinant DNA techniques.

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The term "intron" is used in its normal sense as meaning a segment of nucleotides, usually DNA, that does not encode part or all of an expressed protein or enzyme.

The term "exon" is used in its normal sense as meaning a segment of nucleotides, usually DNA, encoding part or all of an expressed protein or enzyme.

Thus, the term "intron" refers to gene regions that are transcribed into RNA molecules, but which are spliced out of the RNA before the RNA is translated into a protein. In contrast, the term "exon" refers to gene regions that are transcribed into RNA and subsequently translated into proteins.

The terms "variant" or "homologue" or "fragment" in relation to the nucleotide sequence of the present invention include any substitution of, variation of, modification of, replacement of, deletion of or addition of one (or more) nucleic acid from or to the respective nucleotide sequence providing the resultant nucleotide sequence can affect enzyme activity in a plant, or cell or tissue thereof, preferably wherein the resultant nucleotide sequence has at least the same effect as any one of

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the sense sequences shown as SEQ.I.D. No.s 1-13. In particular, the term "homologue" covers homology with respect to similarity of structure and/or similarity of function providing the resultant nucleotide sequence has the ability to affect enzymatic activity in accordance with the present invention. With respect to sequence homology (i.e. similarity), preferably there is more than 80% homology, more preferably at least 85% homology, more preferably at least 90% homology, even more preferably at least 95% homology, more preferably at least 98% homology. The above terms are also synonymous with allelic variations of the sequences.

Likewise, the terms "variant" or "homologue" or "fragment" in relation to the promoter of the present invention include any substitution of, variation of, modification of, replacement of, deletion of or addition of one (or more) nucleic acid from or to the respective promoter sequence providing the resultant promoter sequence allows expression of a GOI, preferably wherein the resultant promoter sequence has at least the same effect as SEQ.I.D. No. 14. In particular, the term "homologue" covers homology with respect to similarity of structure and/or similarity of function providing the resultant promoter sequence has the ability to allow for expression of a GOI, such as a nucleotide sequence according to the present invention. With respect to sequence homology (i.e. similarity), preferably there is more than 80% homology, more preferably at least 85% homology, more preferably at least 95% homology. The above terms are also synonymous with allelic variations of the sequences.

The intron sequence of the present invention can be any one or all of the intron sequences of the present invention, including partial sequences thereof, provided that if partial sense sequences are used (i.e. sequences that are not or do not comprise any one or more of the full sequences shown as SEQ.I.D. No.1-13) the partial sequences affect enzymatic activity. Suitable examples of partial sequences include sequences that are shorter than any one of the full sense sequences shown as SEQ.I.D.No.s I to 13 but which comprise nucleotides that are adjacent the respective exon or exons.

With regard to the second aspect of the present invention (i.e. specifically affecting SBE activity), the nucleotide sequences of the present invention may comprise one or more sense or antisense exon sequences of the SBE gene (but not sense exon sequences naturally associated with the intron sequence), including complete or partial sequences thereof, providing the nucleotide sequences can affect SBE activity, preferably wherein the nucleotide sequences reduce or eliminate SBE activity. Preferably, the nucleotide sequence of the second aspect of the present invention does not comprise sense exon sequences.

The term "vector" includes an expression vector and a transformation vector. The term "expression vector" means a construct capable of *in vivo* or *in vitro* expression. The term "transformation vector" means a construct capable of being transferred from one species to another - such as from an *E. Coli* plasmid to a fungus or a plant cell. or from an *Agrobacterium* to a plant cell.

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The term "construct" - which is synonymous with terms such as "conjugate", "cassette" and "hybrid" - in relation to the sense nucleotide sequence aspect of the present invention includes the nucleotide sequence according to the present invention directly or indirectly attached to a promoter. An example of an indirect attachment is the provision of a suitable spacer group such as an intron sequence, such as the Sh1-intron or the ADH intron, intermediate the promoter and the nucleotide sequence of the present invention. The same is true for the term "fused" in relation to the present invention which includes direct or indirect attachment. The terms do not cover the natural combination of the wild type SBE gene when associated with the wild type SBE gene promoter in their natural environment.

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The construct may even contain or express a marker which allows for the selection of the genetic construct in, for example, a plant cell into which it has been transferred. Various markers exist which may be used in, for example, plants - such as mannose. Other examples of markers include those that provide for antibiotic resistance - e.g. resistance to G418, hygromycin, bleomycin, kanamycin and gentamycin.

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The construct of the present invention preferably comprises a promoter. The term "promoter" is used in the normal sense of the art. e.g. an RNA polymerase binding site in the Jacob-Monod theory of gene expression. Examples of suitable promoters are those that can direct efficient expression of the nucleotide sequence of the present invention and/or in a specific type of cell. Some examples of tissue specific promoters are disclosed in WO 92/11375.

The promoter could additionally include conserved regions such as a Pribnow Box or a TATA box. The promoters may even contain other sequences to affect (such as to maintain, enhance, decrease) the levels of expression of the nucleotide sequence of the present invention. Suitable examples of such sequences include the *Sh1*-intron or an ADH intron. Other sequences include inducible elements - such as temperature, chemical, light or stress inducible elements. Also, suitable elements to enhance transcription or translation may be present. An example of the latter element is the TMV 5' leader sequence (see Sleat Gene 217 [1987] 217-225; and Dawson Plant Mol. Biol. 23 [1993] 97).

As mentioned, the construct and/or the vector of the present invention may include a transcriptional initiation region which may provide for regulated or constitutive expression. Any suitable promoter may be used for the transcriptional initiation region, such as a tissue specific promoter. In one aspect, preferably the promoter is the patatin promoter or the E35S promoter. In another aspect, preferably the promoter is the SBE promoter.

If, for example, the organism is a plant then the promoter can be one that affects expression of the nucleotide sequence in any one or more of seed, tuber, stem, sprout, root and leaf tissues, preferably tuber. By way of example, the promoter for the nucleotide sequence of the present invention can be the α -Amy 1 promoter (otherwise known as the Amy 1 promoter, the Amy 637 promoter or the α -Amy 637 promoter) as described in our co-pending UK patent application No. 9421292.5 filed 21 October 1994. Alternatively, the promoter for the nucleotide sequence of the present invention can be the α -Amy 3 promoter (otherwise known as the Amy 3

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promoter, the Amy 351 promoter or the α -Amy 351 promoter) as described in our co-pending UK patent application No. 9421286.7 filed 21 October 1994.

The present invention also encompasses the use of a promoter to express a nucleotide sequence according to the present invention, wherein a part of the promoter is inactivated but wherein the promoter can still function as a promoter. Partial inactivation of a promoter in some instances is advantageous. In particular, with the Amy 351 promoter mentioned earlier it is possible to inactivate a part of it so that the partially inactivated promoter expresses the nucleotide sequence of the present invention in a more specific manner such as in just one specific tissue type or organ. The term "inactivated" means partial inactivation in the sense that the expression pattern of the promoter is modified but wherein the partially inactivated promoter still functions as a promoter. However, as mentioned above, the modified promoter is capable of expressing a gene coding for the enzyme of the present invention in at least one (but not all) specific tissue of the original promoter. Examples of partial inactivation include altering the folding pattern of the promoter sequence, or binding species to parts of the nucleotide sequence, so that a part of the nucleotide sequence is not recognised by, for example, RNA polymerase. Another, and preferable, way of partially inactivating the promoter is to truncate it to form fragments thereof. Another way would be to mutate at least a part of the sequence so that the RNA polymerase can not bind to that part or another part. Another modification is to mutate the binding sites for regulatory proteins for example the CreA protein known from filamentous fungi to exert carbon catabolite repression, and thus abolish the catabolite repression of the native promoter.

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The construct and/or the vector of the present invention may include a transcriptional termination region.

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The nucleotide according to the present invention can be expressed in combination (but not necessarily at the same time) with an additional construct. Thus the present invention also provides a combination of constructs comprising a first construct comprising the nucleotide sequence according to the present invention operatively

linked to a first promoter: and a second construct comprising a GOI operatively linked to a second promoter (which need not be the same as the first promoter). With this aspect of the present invention the combination of constructs may be present in the same vector, plasmid, cells, tissue, organ or organism. This aspect of the present invention also covers methods of expressing the same, preferably in specific cells or tissues, such as expression in just a specific cell or tissue, of an organism, typically a plant. With this aspect of the present invention the second construct does not cover the natural combination of the gene coding for an enzyme ordinarily associated with the wild type gene promoter when they are both in their natural environment.

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An example of a suitable combination would be a first construct comprising the nucleotide sequence of the present invention and a promoter, such as the promoter of the present invention, and a second construct comprising a promoter, such as the promoter of the present invention, and a GOI wherein the GOI codes for another starch branching enzyme either in sense or antisense orientation.

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The above comments relating to the term "construct" for the sense nucleotide aspect of the present invention are equally applicable to the term "construct" for the promoter aspect of the present invention. In this regard, the term includes the promoter according to the present invention directly or indirectly attached to a GOI.

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The term "GOI" with reference to the promoter aspect of the present invention or the combination aspect of the present invention means any gene of interest, which need not necessarily code for a protein or an enzyme - as is explained later. A GOI can be any nucleotide sequence that is either foreign or natural to the organism in question, for example a plant.

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Typical examples of a GOI include genes encoding for other proteins or enzymes that modify metabolic and catabolic processes. The GOI may code for an agent for introducing or increasing pathogen resistance.

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The GOI may even be an antisense construct for modifying the expression of natural transcripts present in the relevant tissues. An example of such a GOI is the nucleotide sequence according to the present invention.

The GOI may even code for a protein that is non-natural to the host organism - e.g. a plant. The GOI may code for a compound that is of benefit to animals or humans. For example, the GOI could code for a pharmaceutically active protein or enzyme such as any one of the therapeutic compounds insulin, interferon, human serum albumin, human growth factor and blood clotting factors. The GOI may even code for a protein giving additional nutritional value to a food or feed or crop. Typical examples include plant proteins that can inhibit the formation of anti-nutritive factors and plant proteins that have a more desirable amino acid composition (e.g. a higher lysine content than a non-transgenic plant). The GOI may even code for an enzyme that can be used in food processing such as xylanases and α -galactosidase. The GOI can be a gene encoding for any one of a pest toxin, an antisense transcript such as that for α -amylase, a protease or a glucanase. Alternatively, the GOI can be a nucleotide sequence according to the present invention.

The GOI can be the nucleotide sequence coding for the arabinofuranosidase enzyme which is the subject of our co-pending UK patent application 9505479.7. The GOI can be the nucleotide sequence coding for the glucanase enzyme which is the subject of our co-pending UK patent application 9505475.5. The GOI can be the nucleotide sequence coding for the α -amylase enzyme which is the subject of our co-pending UK patent application 9413439.2. The GOI can be the nucleotide sequence coding for the α -amylase enzyme which is the subject of our co-pending UK patent application 9421290.9. The GOI can be any of the nucleotide sequences coding for the α -glucan lyase enzyme which are described in our co-pending PCT patent application PCT/EP94/03397.

In one aspect the GOI can even be a nucleotide sequence according to the present invention but when operatively linked to a different promoter.

WO 97/04113

The GOI could include a sequence that codes for one or more of a xylanase, an arabinase, an acetyl esterase, a rhamnogalacturonase, a glucanase, a pectinase, a branching enzyme or another carbohydrate modifying enzyme or proteinase. Alternatively, the GOI may be a sequence that is antisense to any of those sequences.

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PCT/EP96/03053

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As mentioned above, the present invention provides a mechanism for selectively affecting a particular enzymatic activity.

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In an important application of the present invention it is now possible to reduce or eliminate expression of a genomic nucleotide sequence coding for a genomic protein or enzyme by expressing a sense intron construct for that particular genomic protein or enzyme and (e.g. at the same time) expressing a recombinant version of that enzyme or protein - in other words the GOI is a recombinant nucleotide sequence coding for the genomic enzyme or protein. This application allows expression of desired recombinant enzymes and proteins in the absence of (or reduced levels of) respective genomic enzymes and proteins. Thus the desired recombinant enzymes and proteins can be easily separated and purified from the host organism. This particular aspect of the present invention is very advantageous over the prior art methods which, for example, rely on the use of anti-sense exon expression which methods also affect expression of the recombinant enzyme.

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Thus, a further aspect of the present invention relates to a method of expressing a recombinant protein or enzyme in a host organism comprising expressing a nucleotide sequence coding for the recombinant protein or enzyme; and expressing a further nucleotide sequence wherein the further nucleotide sequence codes, partially or completely, for an intron in a sense orientation; wherein the intron is an intron normally associated with the genomic gene encoding a protein or an enzyme corresponding to the recombinant protein or enzyme; and wherein the further nucleotide sequence does not contain a sequence that is sense to an exon sequence normally associated with the intron. Additional aspects cover the combination of those nucleotide sequences including their incorporation in constructs, vectors, cells, tissues and transgenic organisms.

Therefore the present invention also relates to a combination of nucleotide sequences comprising a first nucleotide sequence coding for a recombinant enzyme; and a second nucleotide sequence which corresponds to an intron in a sense orientation; wherein the intron is an intron that is associated with a genomic gene encoding the enzyme corresponding to the recombinant enzyme; and wherein the second nucleotide sequence does not contain a sequence that is sense to an exon sequence normally associated with the intron.

The GOI may even code for one or more introns but in an antisense orientation, such as any one or more of the antisense intron sequences presented in the attached sequence listings. For example, the present invention also covers the expression of for example a sense intron (e.g. SEQ.I.D.No. 1) in combination with for example an antisense sense intron which preferably is not complementary to the sense intron sequence (e.g. SEQ.I.D.No. 16).

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The terms "cell", "tissue" and "organ" include cell, tissue and organ per se and when within an organism.

The term "organism" in relation to the present invention includes any organism that could comprise the nucleotide sequence according to the present invention and/or wherein the nucleotide sequence according to the present invention can be expressed when present in the organism. Preferably the organism is a starch producing organism such as any one of a plant, algae, fungi, yeast and bacteria, as well as cell lines thereof. Preferably the organism is a plant.

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The term "starch producing organism" includes any organism that can biosynthesise starch. Preferably, the starch producing organism is a plant.

The term "plant" as used herein includes any suitable angiosperm, gymnosperm, monocotyledon and dicotyledon. Typical examples of suitable plants include vegetables such as potatoes; cereals such as wheat, maize, and barley; fruit; trees; flowers; and other plant crops. Preferably, the term means "potato".

The term "transgenic organism' in relation to the present invention includes any organism that comprises the nucleotide sequence according to the present invention and/or products obtained therefrom, and/or wherein the nucleotide sequence according to the present invention can be expressed within the organism. Preferably the nucleotide sequence of the present invention is incorporated in the genome of the organism. Preferably the transgenic organism is a plant, more preferably a potato.

To prepare the host organism one can use prokaryotic or eukaryotic organisms. Examples of suitable prokaryotic hosts include *E. coli* and *Bacillus subtilis*. Teachings on the transformation of prokaryotic hosts is well documented in the art, for example see Sambrook *et al* (Sambrook *et al*. in Molecular Cloning: A Laboratory Manual, 2nd edition, 1989, Cold Spring Harbor Laboratory Press).

Even though the enzyme according to the present invention and the nucleotide sequence coding for same are not disclosed in EP-B-0470145 and CA-A-2006454, those two documents do provide some useful background commentary on the types of techniques that may be employed to prepare transgenic plants according to the present invention. Some of these background teachings are now included in the following commentary.

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The basic principle in the construction of genetically modified plants is to insert genetic information in the plant genome so as to obtain a stable maintenance of the inserted genetic material.

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Several techniques exist for inserting the genetic information, the two main principles being direct introduction of the genetic information and introduction of the genetic information by use of a vector system. A review of the general techniques may be found in articles by Potrykus (Annu Rev Plant Physiol Plant Mol Biol [1991] 42:205-225) and Christou (Agro-Food-Industry Hi-Tech March/April 1994 17-27).

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Thus, in one aspect, the present invention relates to a vector system which carries a nucleotide sequence or construct according to the present invention and which is

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capable of introducing the nucleotide sequence or construct into the genome of an organism, such as a plant.

The vector system may comprise one vector, but it can comprise two vectors. In the case of two vectors, the vector system is normally referred to as a binary vector system. Binary vector systems are described in further detail in Gynheung An et al. (1980), Binary Vectors, Plant Molecular Biology Manual A3, 1-19.

One extensively employed system for transformation of plant cells with a given promoter or nucleotide sequence or construct is based on the use of a Ti plasmid from Agrobacterium tumefaciens or a Ri plasmid from Agrobacterium rhizogenes An et al. (1986), Plant Physiol. 81, 301-305 and Butcher D.N. et al. (1980). Tissue Culture Methods for Plant Pathologists. eds.: D.S. Ingrams and J.P. Helgeson. 203-208. Several different Ti and Ri plasmids have been constructed which are suitable for the construction of the plant or plant cell constructs described above. A non-limiting example of such a Ti plasmid is pGV3850.

The nucleotide sequence or construct of the present invention should preferably be inserted into the Ti-plasmid between the terminal sequences of the T-DNA or adjacent a T-DNA sequence so as to avoid disruption of the sequences immediately surrounding the T-DNA borders, as at least one of these regions appears to be essential for insertion of modified T-DNA into the plant genome.

As will be understood from the above explanation, if the organism is a plant the vector system of the present invention is preferably one which contains the sequences necessary to infect the plant (e.g. the *vir* region) and at least one border part of a T-DNA sequence, the border part being located on the same vector as the genetic construct.

Furthermore, the vector system is preferably an Agrobacterium tumefaciens Tiplasmid or an Agrobacterium rhizogenes Ri-plasmid or a derivative thereof. As these plasmids are well-known and widely employed in the construction of transgenic plants, many vector systems exist which are based on these plasmids or derivatives thereof.

In the construction of a transgenic plant the nucleotide sequence or construct of the present invention may be first constructed in a microorganism in which the vector can replicate and which is easy to manipulate before insertion into the plant. An example of a useful microorganism is *E. coli*, but other microorganisms having the above properties may be used. When a vector of a vector system as defined above has been constructed in *E. coli*, it is transferred, if necessary, into a suitable *Agrobacterium* strain, e.g. *Agrobacterium tumefaciens*. The Ti-plasmid harbouring the nucleotide sequence or construct of the present invention is thus preferably transferred into a suitable *Agrobacterium* strain, e.g. *A. tumefaciens*, so as to obtain an *Agrobacterium* cell harbouring the promoter or nucleotide sequence or construct of the present invention, which DNA is subsequently transferred into the plant cell to be modified.

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If, for example, for the transformation the Ti- or Ri-plasmid of the plant cells is used. at least the right boundary and often however the right and the left boundary of the Ti- and Ri-plasmid T-DNA, as flanking areas of the introduced genes, can be connected. The use of T-DNA for the transformation of plant cells has been intensively studied and is described in EP-A-120516; Hoekema, in: The Binary Plant Vector System Offset-drukkerij Kanters B.B., Alblasserdam, 1985, Chapter V: Fraley, et al., Crit. Rev. Plant Sci., 4:1-46; and An et al., EMBO J. (1985) 4:277-284.

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Direct infection of plant tissues by Agrobacterium is a simple technique which has been widely employed and which is described in Butcher D.N. et al. (1980), Tissue Culture Methods for Plant Pathologists, eds.: D.S. Ingrams and J.P. Helgeson, 203-208. For further teachings on this topic see Potrykus (Annu Rev Plant Physiol Plant Mol Biol [1991] 42:205-225) and Christou (Agro-Food-Industry Hi-Tech March/April 1994 17-27). With this technique, infection of a plant may be performed in or on a certain part or tissue of the plant, i.e. on a part of a leaf, a root, a stem or another part of the plant.

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Typically, with direct infection of plant tissues by Agrobacterium carrying the GOI (such as the nucleotide sequence according to the present invention) and, optionally, a promoter, a plant to be infected is wounded, e.g. by cutting the plant with a razor blade or puncturing the plant with a needle or rubbing the plant with an abrasive. The wound is then inoculated with the Agrobacterium. The inoculated plant or plant part is then grown on a suitable culture medium and allowed to develop into mature plants.

When plant cells are constructed, these cells may be grown and maintained in accordance with well-known tissue culturing methods such as by culturing the cells in a suitable culture medium supplied with the necessary growth factors such as amino acids, plant hormones, vitamins, etc.

Regeneration of the transformed cells into genetically modified plants may be accomplished using known methods for the regeneration of plants from cell or tissue cultures, for example by selecting transformed shoots using an antibiotic and by subculturing the shoots on a medium containing the appropriate nutrients, plant hormones, etc.

Further teachings on plant transformation may be found in EP-A-0449375.

As reported in CA-A-2006454, a large amount of cloning vectors are available which contain a replication system in *E. coli* and a marker which allows a selection of the transformed cells. The vectors contain for example pBR 322, pUC series, M13 mp series, pACYC 184 etc. In this way, the nucleotide or construct of the present invention can be introduced into a suitable restriction position in the vector. The contained plasmid is then used for the transformation in *E coli*. The *E.coli* cells are cultivated in a suitable nutrient medium and then harvested and lysed. The plasmid is then recovered. As a method of analysis there is generally used sequence analysis, restriction analysis, electrophoresis and further oiochemical-molecular biological methods. After each manipulation, the used DNA sequence can be restricted and connected with the next DNA sequence. Each sequence can be cloned in the same

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or different plasmid.

After the introduction of the nucleotide sequence or construct according to the present invention in the plants the presence and/or insertion of further DNA sequences may be necessary - such as to create combination systems as outlined above (e.g. an organism comprising a combination of constructs).

The above commentary for the transformation of prokaryotic organisms and plants with the nucleotide sequence of the present invention is equally applicable for the transformation of those organisms with the promoter of the present invention.

In summation, the present invention relates to affecting enzyme activity by expressing sense intron sequences.

Also, the present invention relates to a promoter useful for the expression of those sense intron sequences.

The following samples have been deposited in accordance with the Budapest Treaty at the recognised depositary The National Collections of Industrial and Marine Bacteria Limited (NCIMB) at 23 St Machar Drive. Aberdeen. Scotland. AB2 1RY. United Kingdom, on 13 July 1995:

NCIMB 40754 (which refers to pBEA 11 as described herein);

NCIMB 40751 (which refers to λ -SBE 3.2 as described herein), and

NCIMB 40752 (which refers to λ -SBE 3.4 as described herein).

A highly preferred embodiment of the present invention therefore relates to a method of affecting enzymatic activity in a plant (or a cell, a tissue or an organ thereof) comprising expressing in the plant (or a cell, a tissue or an organ thereof) a nucleotide sequence wherein the nucleotide sequence codes, partially or completely.

for an intron in a sense orientation: wherein the nucleotide sequence does not contain a sequence that is sense to an exon sequence normally associated with the intron; wherein starch branching enzyme activity is affected and/or the levels of amylopectin are affected and/or the composition of starch is changed; and wherein the intron nucleotide sequence is obtainable from NCIMB 40751. NCIMB 40752, or NCIMB 40754 or a variant, derivative or homologue thereof.

A more highly preferred aspect of the present invention therefore relates to a method of affecting enzymatic activity in a plant (or a cell, a tissue or an organ thereof) comprising expressing in the plant (or a cell, a tissue or an organ thereof) a nucleotide sequence wherein the nucleotide sequence codes, partially or completely, for an intron in a sense orientation; wherein the nucleotide sequence does not contain a sequence that is sense to an exon sequence normally associated with the intron; wherein starch branching enzyme activity is affected and/or the levels of amylopecan are affected and/or the composition of starch is changed; wherein the nucleotide sequence comprises the sequence shown as any one of SEQ.I.D. No. 1 to SEQ.I.D. No. 13 or a variant, derivative or homologue thereof, including combinations thereof; and wherein the intron nucleotide sequence is obtainable from NCIMB 40751, NCIMB 40752, or NCIMB 40754, or a variant, derivative or homologue thereof.

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The present invention will now be described only by way of example, in which reference is made to the following attached Figures:

Figure 1, which is a schematic representation of the biosynthesis of amylose and amylopectin:

Figure 2, which is a diagrammatic representation of the α -1- \ddagger -links and the α -1-6 links of amylopectin:

Figure 3, which is a diagrammatic representation of the exon-intron structure of a genomic SBE clone;

- Figure 4, which is a plasmid map of pPATA1, which is 3936 bp in size:
- Figure 5. which is a plasmid map of pABE7, which is 5106 bp in size:
- 5 Figure 6, which is a plasmid map of pVictorIV Man, which is 7080 bp in size;
 - Figure 7. which is a plasmid map of pBEA11, which is 9.54 kb in size:
- Figure 8, which shows the full genomic nucleotide sequence for SBE including the promoter, exons and introns;
 - Figure 9, which is a plasmid map of pVictor5a, which is 9.12 kb in size; and
 - Figure 10, which is a plasmid map of pBEP2, which is 10.32 kb in size.

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Figures 1 and 2 were referred to above in the introductory description concerning starch in general. As mentioned. Figure 3 is a diagrammatic representation of the exon-intron structure of a genomic SBE clone, the sequence of which is shown in Figure 8. This clone, which has about 11.5 k base pairs, comprises 14 exons and 13 introns. The introns are numbered in increasing order from the 5' end to the 3' end and correspond to SEQ.I.D.No.s 1-13, respectively. Their respective antisense intron sequences are shown as SEQ.I.D.No.s 15-27.

In more detail, Figures 3 and 8 present information on the 11468 base pairs of a potato SBE gene. The 5' region from nucleotides 1 to 2082 contain the promoter region of the SBE gene. A TATA box candidate at nucleotide 2048 to 2051 is boxed. The homology between a potato SBE cDNA clone (Poulsen & Kreiberg (1993) Plant Physiol 102: 1053-1054) and the exon DNAs begin at 2083 bp and end at 9666 bp. The homology between the cDNA and the exon DNA is indicated by nucleotides in upper case letters, while the translated amino acid sequences are shown in the single letter code below the exon DNA. Intron sequences are indicated by lower case letters.

Figure 7 is a plasmid map of pBEA7, which is 9.54 k base pairs in size. Plasmid pBEA 11 comprises the first intron sequence of the potato SBE gene. This first intron sequence, which has 1177 base pairs, is shown in Figure 3 and lies between the first exon and the second exon.

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These experiments and aspects of the present invention are now discussed in more detail.

EXPERIMENTAL PROTOCOL

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ISOLATION, SUBCLONING IN PLASMIDS, AND SEQUENCING OF GENOMIC SBE CLONES

Various clones containing the potato SBE gene were isolated from a Desiree potato genomic library (Clontech Laboratories Inc., Palo Alto CA, USA) using radioactively labelled potato SBE cDNA (Poulsen & Kreiberg (1993) Plant Physiol. 102:1053-1054) as probe. The fragments of the isolated λ-phages containing SBE DNA (λSBE 3.2 - NCIMB 40751 - and λSBE-3.4 - NCIMB 40752) were identified by Southern analysis and then subcloned into pBluescript II vectors (Clontech Laboratories Inc., Palo Alto CA, USA). λSBE 3.2 contains a 15 kb potato DNA insert and λSBE-3.4 contains a 13 kb potato DNA insert. The resultant plasmids were called pGB3. pGB11, pGB15, pGB16 and pGB25 (see discussion below). The respective inserts were then sequenced using the Pharmacia Autoread Sequencing Kit (Pharmacia, Uppsala) and a A.L.F. DNA sequencer (Pharmacia, Uppsala).

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In total, a stretch of 11.5 kb of the SBE gene was sequenced. The sequence was deduced from the above-mentioned plasmids, wherein: pGB25 contains the sequences from 1 bp to 836 bp, pGB15 contains the sequences from 735 bp to 2580 bp, pGB16 contains the sequences from 2580 bp to 5093 bp, pGB11 contains the sequences from 3348 bp to 7975 bp, and pGB3 contains the sequences from 7533 bp to 11468 bp.

In more detail, pGB3 was constructed by insertion of a 4 kb EcoRI fragment isolated from $\lambda SBE 3.2$ into the EcoRI site of pBluescript II SK (+). pGB11 was constructed by insertion of a 4.7 kb XhoI fragment isolated from $\lambda SBE 3.4$ into the XhoI site of pBluescript II SK (+). pGB15 was constructed by insertion of a 1.7 kb SpeI fragment isolated from $\lambda SBE 3.4$ into the SpeI site of pBluescript II SK (+). pGB16 was constructed by insertion of a 2.5 kb SpeI fragment isolated from $\lambda SBE 3.4$ into the SpeI site of pBluescript II SK (+). For the construction of pGB25 a PCR fragment was produced with the primers

10 5' GGA ATT CCA GTC GCA GTC TAC ATT AC 3'

and

5' CGG GAT CCA GAG GCA TTA AGA TTT CTG G 3'

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and $\lambda SBE 3.4$ as a template.

The PCR fragment was digested with BamHI and EcoRI, and inserted in pBluescript II SK (+) digested with the same restriction enzymes.

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CONSTRUCTION OF PLASMID pBEA11

The SBE intron 1 was amplified by PCR using the oligonucleotides

25 5' CGG GAT CCA AAG AAA TTC TCG AGG TTA CAT GG 3'

and

5' CGG GAT CCG GGG TAA TTT TTA CTA ATT TCA TG 3'

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and the λ SBE 3.4 phage containing the SBE gene as template.

The PCR product was digested with BamHI and inserted in a sense orientation in the BamHI site of plasmid pPATA1 (described in WO 94/24292) between the patatin promoter and the 35S terminator. This construction, pABE7, was digested with KpnI, and the 2.4 kb "patatin promoter-SBE intron 1-35S terminator" KpnI fragment was isolated and inserted in the KpnI site of the plant transformation vector pVictorIV Man yielding plasmid pBEA11.

PRODUCTION OF TRANSGENIC POTATO PLANTS

10 Axenic stock cultures

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Shoot cultures of *Solanum tuberosum* 'Bintje' and 'Dianella' are maintained on a substrate (LS) of a formula according to Linsmaier, E.U. and Skoog, F. (1965), Physiol. Plant. 18: 100-127, in addition containing 2 μ M silver thiosulphate at 25°C and 16 h light/8 h dark.

The cultures were subcultured after approximately 40 days. Leaves were then cut off the shoots and cut into nodal segments (approximately 0.8 cm) each containing one node.

Inoculation of potato tissues

Shoots from approximately 40 days old shoot cultures (height approximately 5-6 cms) were cut into internodal segments (approximately 0.8 cm). The segments were placed into liquid LS-substrate containing the transformed *Agrobacterium tumefaciens* containing the binary vector of interest. The *Agrobacterium* were grown overnight in YMB-substrate (di-potassium hydrogen phosphate, trihydrate (0.66 g/l); magnesium sulphate, heptahydrate (0.20 g/l); sodium chloride (0.10 g/l); mannitol (10.0 g/l); and yeast extract (0.40 g/l)) containing appropriate antibiotics (corresponding to the resistance gene of the *Agrobacterium* strain) to an optical density at 660 nm (OD-660) of approximately 0.8, centrifuged and resuspended in the LS-substrate to an OD-660 of 0.5.

The segments were left in the suspension of Agrobacterium for 30 minutes and then the excess of bacteria were removed by blotting the segments on sterile filter paper.

Co-cultivation

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The shoot segments were co-cultured with bacteria for 48 hours directly on LS-substrate containing agar (8.0 g/l). 2.4-dichlorophenoxyacetic acid (2.0 mg/l) and trans-zeatin (0.5 mg/l). The substrate and also the explants were covered with sterile filter papers, and the petri dishes were placed at 25°C and 16 h light/ 8 dark.

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"Washing" procedure

After the 48 h on the co-cultivation substrate the segments were transferred to containers containing liquid LS-substrate containing 800 mg/l carbenicillin. The containers were gently shaken and by this procedure the major part of the Agrobacterium was either washed off the segments and/or killed.

Selection

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After the washing procedure the segments were transferred to plates containing the LS-substrate, agar (8 g/l), trans-zeatin (1-5 mg/l), gibberellic acid (0.1 mg/l), carbenicillin (800 mg/l), and kanamycin sulphate (50-100 mg/l) or phosphinotricin (1-5 mg/l) or mannose (5 g/l) depending on the vector construction used. The segments were sub-cultured to fresh substrate each 3-4 weeks. In 3 to 4 weeks, shoots develop from the segments and the formation of new shoots continued for 3-4 months.

Rooting of regenerated shoots

The regenerated shoots were transferred to rooting substrate composed of LS-substrate, agar (8 g/l) and carbenicillin (800 mg/l).

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The transgenic genotype of the regenerated shoot were verified by testing the rooting ability on the above mentioned substrates containing kanamycin sulphate (200 mg/l), by performing NPTII assays (Radke, S. E. et al, Theor. Appl. Genet. (1988), 75: 685-694) or by performing PCR analysis according to Wang et al (1993, NAR 21 pp 4153-4154). Plants which were not positive in any of these assays were discarded or used as controls. Alternatively, the transgenic plants could be verified by performing a GUS assay on the co-introduced β -glucuronidase gene according to Hodal, L. et al. (Pl. Sci. (1992), 87: 115-122).

10 Transfer to soil

The newly rooted plants (height approx. 2-3 cms) were transplanted from rooting substrate to soil and placed in a growth chamber (21°C, 16 hour light 200-400uE/m²/sec). When the plants were well established they were transferred to the greenhouse, where they were grown until tubers had developed and the upper part of the plants were senescing.

Harvesting

The potatoes were harvested after about 3 months and then analysed.

BRANCHING ENZYME ANALYSIS

The SBE expression in the transgenic potato lines were measured using the SBE assays described by Blennow and Johansson (Phytochemistry (1991) 30:437-444) and by standard Western procedures using antibodies directed against potato SBE.

STARCH ANALYSIS

Starch was isolated from potato tubers and analysed for the amylose:amylopectin ratio (Hovenkamp-Hermelink et al. (1988) Potato Research 31:241-246). In addition, the chain length distribution of amylopectin was determined by analysis of isoamylase

digested starch on a Dionex HPAEC. The number of reducing ends in isoamylase digested starch was determined by the method described by N. Nelson (1944) J. Biol.Chem. 153:375-380.

The results revealed that there was a reduction in the level of synthesis of SBE and/or the level of activity of SBE and/or the composition of starch SBE in the transgenic plants.

CONSTRUCTION OF SBE PROMOTER CONSTRUCT

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An SBE promoter fragment was amplified from λ -SBE 3.4 using primers:

5' CCA TCG ATA CTT TAA GTG ATT TGA TGG C 31

15 and

5' CGG GAT CCT GTT CTG ATT CTT GAT TTC C 3'.

The PCR product was digested with ClaI and BamHI. The resultant 1.2 kb fragment was then inserted in pVictor5a (see Figure 9) linearised with ClaI and BgIII yielding pBEP2 (see Figure 10).

STARCH BRANCHING ENZYME MEASUREMENTS OF POTATO TUBERS

Potatoes from potato plants transformed with pBEA11 were cut in small pieces and homogenised in extraction buffer (50 mM Tris-HCl pH 7.5, Sodium-dithionit (0.1 g/l), and 2 mM DTT) using a Ultra-Turax homogenizer; 1 g of Dowex xl. was added pr. 10 g of tuber. The crude homogenate was filtered through a miracloth filter and centrifuged at 4°C for 10 minutes at 24.700 g. The supernatant was used for starch branching enzyme assays.

The starch branching enzyme assays were carried out at 25 oC in a volume of 400 μ l composed of 0.1 M Na citrate buffer pH 7.0, 0.75 mg/ml amylose, 5 mg/ml bovine serum albumin and the potato extract. At 0, 15 30 and 60 minutes aliquots of 50 μ l were removed from the reaction into 20 μ l 3 N HCl. 1 ml of iodine solution was added and the decrease in absorbance at 620 nm was measured with an ELISA spectrophotometer.

The starch branching enzyme (SBE) levels in tuber extracts were measured from 24 transgenic Dianella potato plants transformed with plasmid pBEA11.

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The results showed that the BEA11 transgenic lines produced tubers which have SBE levels that are only 10 % to 15 % of the SBE levels found in non transformed Dianella plants.

15 SUMMATION

The above-mentioned examples relate to the isolation and sequencing of a gene for potato SBE. The examples further demonstrate that it is possible to prepare SBE intron constructs. These SBE intron constructs can be introduced into plants, such as potato plants. After introduction, a reduction in the level of synthesis of SBE and/or the level of activity of SBE and/or the composition of starch in plants can be achieved.

Without wishing to be bound by theory it is believed that the expressed sense intron nucleotide sequence according to the present invention affects enzymatic activity via co-suppression and/or trans-activation. Reviews of these mechanisms has been published by Finnegan and McElroy (1994 Biotechnology 12 pp 883 - 887) and Matzke and Matzke (1995 TIG 11 No. 1 pp 1 - 3). By these mechanisms, it is believed that the sense introns of the present invention reduce the level of plant enzyme activity (in particular SBE activity), which in turn for SBE activity is believed to influence the amylose:amylopectin ratio and thus the branching pattern of amylopectin.

- Thus, the present invention provides a method wherein it is possible to manipulate the starch composition in plants, or tissues or cells thereof, such as potato tubers, by reducing the level of SBE activity by using sense intron sequences.
- In summation the present invention therefore relates to the surprising use of sense intron sequences in a method to affect enzymatic activity in plants.

Other modifications of the present invention will be apparent to those skilled in the art without departing from the scope of the present invention. For example, it may be possible to use antisense promoter sequences to affect enzymatic activity, such as antisense SBE promoter - such as a nucleotide sequence comprising the nucleotide sequence shown as SEQ. I.D. No. 28 or a variant, derivative or homologue thereof.

The following pages present a number of sequence listings which have been consecutively numbered from SEQ.I.D. No. 1 - SEQ.I.D. No. 29. In brief, SEQ.I.D. No. 1 - SEQ.I.D. No. 13 represent sense intron sequences (genomic DNA); SEQ.I.D. No. 14 represents the SBE promoter sequence (genomic sequence); SEQ.I.D. No. 15 - SEQ.I.D. No. 27 represent antisense intron sequences; and SEQ. I.D. No. 28 represents the sequence complementary to the SBE promoter sequence i.e. the SBE promoter sequence in antisense orientation. The full genomic nucleotide sequence for SBE including the promoter, exons and introns is shown as SEQ. I.D. No. 29 (see Figures 3 and 8 which highlight particular gene features).

-SEQUENCE INFORMATION

SEQ.I.D. No. 1 Intron 1 sequence (1167 bp).

GTAATTTTTACTAATTTCATGTTAATTTCAATTATTTTTAGCCTTTGCATTTCATTTTCCAATATATCT GGATCATCTCCTTAGTTTTTTATTTTATTTTTTATAATATCAAATATGGAAGAAAAATGACACTTGTAG AGCCATATGTAAGTATCATGTGACAAATTTGCAAGGTGGTTGAGTGTATAAAATTCAAAAATTGAGAGA TGGAGGGGGGTGGGGGBARAGACAATATTTAGAAAGAGTGTTCTAGGAGGTTATGGAGGACACGGATG AGGGGTAGAAGGTTAGTTAGGTATTTGAGTGTTGTCTGGCTTATCCTTTCATACTAGTAGTCGTGGAAT TATTTGGGTAGTTTCTTGTTTATTTGATCTTTGTTATTCTATTTCTGTTTCTTGTACTTCGATT ATTGTATTATATATCTTGTCGTAGTTATTGTTCCTCGGTAAGAATGCTCTAGCATGCTTCCTTTAGTGT TTTATCATGCCTTCTTTATATTCGCGTTGCTTTGAAATGCTTTTACTTTAGCCGAGGGTCTATTAGAAA CAATCTCTCTATCTCGTAAGGTAGGGGTAAAGTCCTCACCACACTCCACTTGTGGGATTACATTGTGTT TGTTGTTGTAAATCAATTATGTATACATAATAAGTGGATTTTTTACAACACAAATACATGGTCAAGGGC AAAGTTCTGAACACATAAAGGGTTCATTATATGTCCAGGGATATGATAAAAATTGTTTCTTTGTGAAAG TTATATAAGATTTGTTATGGCTTTTGCTGGAAACATAATAAGTTATAATGCTGAGATAGCTACTGAAGT TTGTTTTTCTAGCCTTTTAAATGTACCAATAATAGATTCCGTATCGAACGAGTATGTTTTGATTACCT GGTCATGATGTTTCTATTTTTTACATTTTTTTGGTGTTGAACTGCAATTGAAAATGTTGTATCCTATGA GACGGATAGTTGAGAATGTGTTCTTTGTATGGACCTTGAGAAGCTCAAACGCTACTCCAATAATTTCTA TGAATTCAAATTCAGTTTATGGCTACCAGTCAGTCCAGAAATTAGGATATGCTGCATATACTTGTTCAA TTATACTGTAAAATTTCTTAAGTTCTCAAGATATCCATGTAACCTCGAGAATTTCTTTGACAG

SEQ.I.D. No. 2 Intron 2 sequence (321 bp).

SEQ.I.D. No. 3
Intron 3 sequence (504 bp).

SEQ.I.D. No. 4

Intron 4 sequence (146 bp).

GTAGGTCCTCGTCTACCAAAATAGTAGTTTCCATCATCATCATCACAGATTTTCCTATTAAAGCATGATG
TTGCAGCATCATTGCTTTCTTACATGTTCTAATTGCTATTAAGGTTATGCTTCTAATTAACTCATCCA
CAATGCAG

SEQ.I.D. No. 5

Intron 5 sequence (218 bp).

GTTTTGTTATTCATACCTTGAAGCTGAATTTTGAACACCATCATCACAGGCATTTCGATTCATGTTCTT
ACTAGTCTTGTTATGTAAGACATTTTGAAATGCAAAAGTTAAAATTATTGTGTCTTTACTAATTTGGAC
TTGATCCCATACTCTTTCCCTTAACAAAATGAGTCAATTCTATAAGTGCTTGAGAACTTACTACATCAG
CAATTAAACAG

SEQ.I.D. No. 6

Intron 6 sequence (198 bp).

SEQ.I.D. No. 7

Intron 7 sequence (208bp)

GTTTGTCTGTTTCTATTGCATTTTAAGGTTCATATAGGTTAGCCACGGAAAATCTCACTCTTTGTGAGG TAACCAGGGTTCTGATGGATTATTCAATTTTCTCGTTTATCATTTTTTTCATGCATTTTTCT TTCTTTTTCAATATCCCTCTTATTTGGAGGTAATTTTTCTCATCTATTCACTTTTAGCTTCTAACCACAG

SEQ.I.D. No. 8

Intron 8 sequence (293 bp).

SEO.I.D. No. 9

Intron 9 sequence (376 bp).

ATACTTACCTTTTCTTTACAATGAAGTGATACTAATTGAAATGGTCTAAATCTGATATCTTCTCCCCCCTCATGATGAAATGCAG

SEQ.I.D. No. 10
Intron 10 sequence (172 bp).

GTAAAATCATCTAAAGTTGAAAGTGTTGGGTTTATGAAGTGCTTTAATTCTATCCAAGGACAAGTAGAA ACCTTTTTACCTTCCATTTCTTGATGATGGATTTCATATTATTTAATCCAATAGCTGGTCAAATTCGGT AATAGCTGTACTGATTACTTCACTTTGCAG

SEQ.I.D. No. 11 Intron 11 sequence (145 bp).

GTATATATGTTTTACTTATCCATGAAATTATTGCTCTGCTTGTTTTTAATGTACTGAACAAGTTTTATG GAGAAGTAACTGAAACAAATCATTTTCACATTGTCTAATTTAACTCTTTTTTCTGATCCTCGCATGACG AAAACAG

SEQ.I.D. No. 12

Intron 12 sequence (242 bp).

SEQ.I.D. No. 13 Intron 13 sequence (797 bp).

SEQ.I.D. No. 14 DNA sequence of the SBE gene promoter region.

ATCATGGCCAATTACTGGTTCAAATGCATTACTTCCTTTCAGATTCTTTCGAGTTCTCAT	60
GACCGGTCCTACTACAGACGATACTAACCCGTGGAACTGTTGCATCTGCTTCTTAGAACT	120
CTATGGCTATTTTCGTTAGCTTGGCGTCGGTTTGAACATAGTTTTTGTTTTCAAACTCTT	180
CATTTACAGTCAAAATGTTGTATGGTTTTTGTTTTCCTCAATGATGTTTACAGTGTTGTG	240
TTGTCATCTGTACTTTTGCCTATTACTTGTTTTGAGTTACATGTTAAAAAAGTGTTTATT	300
TTGCCATATTTTGTTCTCTTATTATTATTATCATACATAC	360
AGTACACAGATCTTAACGTTTATGTTCAATCAACTTTTGGAGGCATTGACAGGTACCACA	420
AATTTTGAGTTTATGATTAAGTTCAATCTTAGAATATGAATTTAACATCTATTATAGATG	480
CATAAAAATAGCTAATGATAGAACATTGACATTTGGCAGAGCTTAGGGTATGGTATATCC	540
AACGTTAATTTAGTAATTTTTGTTACGTACGTATATGAAATATTGAATTAATCACATGAA	600
CGGTGGATATTATATTATGAGTTGGCATCAGCAAAATCATTGGTGTAGTTGACTGTAGTT	660
GCAGATTTAATAATAAAATGGTAATTAACGGTCGATATTAAAATAACTCTCATTTCAAGT	720
GGGATTAGAACTAGTTATTAAAAAAATGTATACTTTAAGTGATTTGATGGCATATAATTT	780
AAAGTTTTTCATTCATGCTAAAATTGTTAATTATTGTAATGTAGACTGCGACTGGAATT	840
ATTATAGTGTAAATTTATGCATTCAGTGTAAAATTAAAGTATTGAACTTGTCTGTTTTAG	900
AAAATACTTTATACTTTAATATAGGATTTTGTCATGCGAATTTAAATTAATCGATATTGA	960
ACACGGAATACCAAAATTAAAAAGGATACACATGGCCTTCATATGAACCGTGAACCTTTG	1020
ATAACGTGGAAGTTCAAAGAAGGTAAAGTTTAAGAATAAACTGACAAATTAATT	1080
ATTTGGCCCACTACTAAATTTGCTTTACTTTCTAACATGTCAAGTTGTGCCCTCTTAGTT	1140
GAATGATATTCATTTTCATCCCATAAGTTCAATTTGATTGTCATACCACCCATGATGTT	1200
CTGAAAAATGCTTGGCCATTCACAAAGTTTATCTTAGTTCCTATGAACTTTATAAGAAGC	1260
TTTAATTTGACATGTTATTTATATTAGATGATATAATCCATGACCCAATAGACAAGTGTA	1320
TTAATATTGTAACTTTGTAATTGAGTGTGTCTACATCTTATTCAATCATTTAAGGTCATT	1380
AAAATAAATTATTTTTTGACATTCTAAAACTTTAAGCAGAATAAATA	1440
TAAAAACAAAAACGACTTATTTATAAATCAACAAACAATTTTAGATTGCTCCAACATAT	1500
TTTTCCAAATTAAATGCAGAAAATGCATAATTTTATACTTGATCTTTATAGCTTATTTTT	1560
TTTAGCCTAACCAACGAATATTTGTAAACTCACAACTTGATTAAAAGGGATTTACAACAA	1620
GATATATAAGTAGTGACAAATCTTGATTTTAAATATTTTAATTTGGAGGTCAAAATTT	1680
TACCATAATCATTTGTATTTATAATTAAATTTTAAATATCTTATTTAT	1740
AACTTTTAAATATACGTATATACAAAATATAAAATTATTGGCGTTCATATTAGGTCAATA	1800
AATCCTTAACTATATCTGCCTTACCACTAGGAGAAAGTAAAAAACTCTTTACCAAAAATA	1860
CATGTATTATGTATACAAAAGTCGATTAGATTACCTAAATAGAAATTGTATAACGAGTA	1920
AGTAAGTAGAAATATAAAAAAACTACAATACTAAAAAAAA	1930
AAACTAATGGGGTCTGAGTGAAATATTCAGAAAGGGGAGGACTAACAAAAGGGTCATAAT	2040
GTTTTTTATAAAAGCCACTAAAATGAGGAAATCAAGAATCAGAACATACAAGAAGGCA	2100
GCAGCTGAAGCAAAGTACCATAATTTAATCAATGGAAATTAATT	2160
ACCCATTCG	

SEQ.I.D. No. 15
Intron 1 antisense sequence (1167 bp).

CTGTCAAAGAAATTCTCGAGGTTACATGGATATCTTGAGAACTTAAGAAATTTTACAGTATAATTGAAC AAGTATATGCAGCATATCCTAATTTCTGGACTGACTGGTAGCCATAAACTGAATTTGAATTCATAGAAA TTATTGGAGTAGCGTTTGAGCTTCTCAAGGTCCATACAAAGAACACATTCTCAACTATECGTCTCATAG GATACAACATTTTCAATTGCAGTTCAACACCAAAAAAATGTAAAAAATAGAAACATCATGACCAGGTAA GTAGCTATCTCAGCATTATAACTTATTATGTTTCCAGCAAAAGCCATAACAAATCTTATATAACTTTCA CAAAGAAACAATTTTTATCATATCCCTGGACATATAATGAACCCTTTATGTGTTCAGAACTTTGCCCTT GACCATGTATTTGTGTTGTAAAAAATCCACTTATTATGTATACATAATTGATTTACAACAACAACAACAACA ATGTAATCCCACAAGTGGAGTGTGGTGAGGACTTTACCCCTACCTTACGAGATAGAGAGATTGTTTCTA ATAGACCCTCGGCTAAAGTAAAAGCATTTCAAAGCAACGCGAATATAAAGAAGGCATGATAAAACACTA AAGGAAGCATGCTAGAGCATTCTTACCGAGGAACAATAACTACGACAAGATATATAATACAATAATCGA AGTACAAGAAACAGAAAATAGAATAACAAAGATCAAATAACAAAACAAGAAACTACCCAAATAATTCCA CGACTACTAGTATGAAAGGATAAGCCAGACAACACTCAAATACCTAACCTTACCCTCATCCG TGTCCTCCATAACCTCCTAGAACACTCTTTCTAAATATTGTCTYTVCCCCCACCCCCCCTCCATCTCTC AATTTTTGAATTTTATACACTCAACCACCTTGCAAATTTGTCACATGATACTTACATATGGCTCTACAA GTGTCATTTTCTTCCATATTTGATATTATAAAAAATAAAATAAAAAACTAAGGAGATGATCCAGATAT ATTGGAAAATGAAATGCAAAGGCTAAAAATAATTGAAATTAACATGAAATTAGTAAAAATTAC

SEQ.I.D. No. 16
Intron 2 antisense sequence (321 bp).

MMMVGCAAGCAATGCACCACAGTTAGTTTATATCAAAAAGAAGAAGGTATTAACGGAGCTAAAAACTG
TTATATACCACATGAAAGAAGTTGATAATGTGAAAACACCATGCTCATAAAGATTGTAATTCAAATAAC
AAATGCCCACAGGAGTAAAGAGCTGTCTTTCCCAAGTTAAGGTATTATAAATTGGCGGAACGAAGTAAC
ACATGTTTGACATCTCCACACGGTGCACAGATCAAATATGCCATGAGCACCAGTCCAGAAGTTTTCCAA
CTATTTATATACCTATCCATGCAACCATATAAATTATCAAACATAC

SEQ.I.D. No. 17
Intron 3 antisense sequence (504 bp).

SEQ.I.D. No. 18

Intron 4 antisense sequence (146 bp).

CTGCATTGTGGATGAGTTAATTAGAAGCATAACCTTAATAGCAATTAGAACATGTAAGAAAGCCAATGA TGCTGCAACATCATGCTTTAATAGGAAAATCTGTTATGATGATGGAAACTACTATTTTGTAGTAGACGA GGACCTAC

SEQ.I.D. No. 19

Intron 5 antisense sequence (218 bp).

CIGTTTAATTGCTGAAGTAGTAAGTTCTCAAGCACTTATAGAATTGACTCATTTTGTTAAGGGAAAGAG TATGGGATCAAGTCCAAATTAGTAAAGACACAATTATTTTAACTTTTGCATTTCAAAATGTCTTACATA ACAAGACTAGTAAGAACATGAATCGAAATGCCTGTGATGATGGTGTTCAAAATTCAGCTTCAAGGTATG AATAACAAAAC

SEQ.I.D. No. 20

Intron 6 antisense sequence (198 bp).

SEQ.I.D. No. 21

Intron 7 antisense sequence (208 bp).

CTGTGGTTAGAAGCTAAAAGTGAATAGATGAGAAAAATTACCTCCAAATAAGAGGGATATTGAAAAAGA AACACAATGCATGAAAAGAATAAACAAATGATAAACGAGAAAATTGAATAATCCATCAGAACCTGGTT ACCTCACAAAGAGTGAGATTTTCCGTGGCTAACCTATATGAACCTTAAAATGGAATAGAAACAGACAAAC

SEQ.I.D. No. 22

Intron 8 antisense sequence (293 bp).

CTGTACAAGTTCATCAAACATTTCACAATTACTCCAAAACAGACACACTTGCAAACTCTATACAGTAAT
CTTCTATACTACAAAAAAGTAAACAATGTTTTTTTTAAGATGACATTTGTTCTCAGCAACATAATAGAA
ATCCCTAGACAATGGAAACATTCATCATGTTGTTTTCCTCTATGTTTCAACCCCCTTTGATGTTCAACAG
TTCAGGTCATTTTGAGGAATGAATCTTGTTCAAGTAAGCCAAACTAATTGTAATTATCACAAAATATCT
AAAGATGTAAGACATAC

SEQ.I.D. No. 23

Intron 9 antisense sequence (376 bp).

CTGCATTTCATGAGGGGGGAGAAAGACGGAGAAATATAGATATCAGATTTAGACCATTTCAATTAG
TATCACTTCATGAAGAAAAGGTAAGTATCCAACAAATATAGCAGGCTGTGGATTGGTAGCCTGAAA
CTATAGCTTCAAAGAATCAACTTAAGCTGCTCATCAAGGCCTTAGTGGTAGAAATAAGTAGAACAA
TGTAAATGAATCTAATACTTGGATCTCGAAACAAAAATCAGAAATTCGGTTGGAAAAATAAGTAGAACAA

GATGAAATGAGCTATCATCCCCAGAACCAAGTAGACTTCCAAGTAAGCAATCTAAAAATTACTAGATTA

SEQ.I.D. No. 24

Intron 10 antisense sequence (172 bp).

CTGCAAAGTGAAGTAACTAATCAGTACAGCTATTACCGAATTTGACCAGCTATTGGATTAAATAATATGAAATCCATCATCAAGAAATGGAAGGTAAAAAGGTTTCTACTTGTCCTTGGATAGAATTAAAGCACTTCATAAACCCAACACTTTCAACTTTAGATGATTTTAC

SEQ.I.D. No. 25

Intron 11 antisense sequence (145 bp).

CTGTTTTCGTCATGCGAGGATCAGAAAAAGAGTTAAATTAGACAATGTGAAAATGATTTGTTTCAGTT ACTTCTCCATAAAACTTGTTCAGTACATTAAAAACAAGCAGAGCAATAATTTCATGGATAAGTAAAACA TATATAC

SEQ. I.D. No. 26

Intron 12 antisense sequence (242 bp).

SEQ.I.D. No. 27

Intron 13 antisense sequence (797 bp).

SEQ.I.D. No. 28
Antisense DNA sequence of the SBE gene promoter region.

CGAATGGGTTTTGATAAACTTTGAAATTAATTTCCATTGATTAAATTATGGTACTTTGC	60
TTCAGCTGCTTCTTGTATGTTCTGATTCTTGATTTCCTCATTTTAGTGGCTTTTTA	120
TAAAAAAACATTATGACCCTTTTGTTAGTCCTCCCCTTTCTGAATATTTCACTCAGACCC	180
CATTAGTTTCGAAATTGAAGTAAAACATATTTTTTTTTT	240
CTACTTACTCGTTATACAATTTCTATTTAGGTAATCTAATCGACTTTTTGTATACA	300
TAATACATGTATTTTTGGTAAAGAGTTTTTTACTTTCTCCTAGTGGTAAGGCAGA	360
TTAAGGATTTATTGACCTAATATGAACGCCAATAATTTTATATTTTGTATATACGTATAT	420
TTAAAAGTTTACTAGATATGTATAAATAAGATATTTAAAATTTAATTATAAATACAAATG	480
ATTATGGTAAAATTTTGACCTCCAAATTAAAATATTTAAAATCAAGATTTGTCACTACTT	540
ATATATATCTTGTTGTAAATCCCTTTTAATCAAGTTGTGAGTTTACAAATATTCGTTGGT	600
TAGGCTAAAAAAAATAAGCTATAAAGATCAAGTATAAAATTATGCATTTTCTGCATTTAA	660
TTTGGAAAATATGTTGGAGCAATCTAAAATTGTTTGTTGATTTATAAATAA	720
TTGTTTTTAATAATTGATAAACTATTTATTCTGCTTAAAGTTTTAGAATGTCAAAAAATA	780
ATTTATTTTAATGACCTTAAATGATTGAATAAGATGTAGACACACTCAATTACAAAGTT	840
CAATATTAATACACTTGTCTATTGGGTCATGGATTATATCATCTAATATAAATAA	900
CAAATTAAAGCTTCTTATAAAGTTCATAGGAACTAAGATAAACTTTGTGAATGGCCAAGC	960
ATTTTTCAGAACATCATGGGTGGTATGACAATCAAATTGAACTTATGGGATGAAAAATGA	1020
ATATCATTCAACTAAGAGGGCACAACTTGACATGTTAGAAAGTAAAGCAAATTTAGTAGT	1080
GGGCCAAATAAAAGAAATTAATTTGTCAGTTTATTCTTAAACTTTACCTTCTTTGAACTT	1140
CCACGTTATCAAAGGTTCACGGTTCATATGAAGGCCATGTGTATCCTTTTTAATTTTGGT	1200
ATTCCGTGTTCAATATCGATTAATTTAAATTCGCATGACAAAATCCTATATTAAAGTATA	1260
AAGTATTTTCTAAAACAGACAAGTTCAATACTTTAATTTTACACTGAATGCATAAATTTA	1320
CACTATAATAATTCCAGTCGCAGTCTACATTACAATAATTAACAATTTTAGCATGAAATG	1380
AAAAACTTTAAATTATATGCCATCAAATCACTTAAAGTATACATTTTTTTAATAACTAGT	1440
TCTAATCCCACTTGAAATGAGAGTTATTTTAATATCGACCGTTAATTACCATTTTATTAT	1500
TAAATCTGCAACTACAGTCAACTACACCAATGATTTTGCTGATGCCAACTCATAATATAA	1560
TATCCACCGTTCATGTGATTAATTCAATATTTCATATACGTACG	1620
ATTAACGTTGGATATACCATACCCTAAGCTCTGCCAAATGTCAATGTTCTATCATTAGCT	1680
ATTTTTATGCATCTATAATAGATGTTAAATTCATATTCTAAGATTGAACTTAATCATAAA	1740
CTCAAAATTTGTGGTACCTGTCAATGCCTCCAAAAGTTGATTGA	1800
CTGTGTACTTGTCTTTTCCTTGTAATAATGTATGATAATAATAATAAGAGAACAAA	1860
ATATGGCAAAATAAACACTTTTTTAACATGTAACTCAAAACAAGTAATAGGCAAAAGTAC	1920
AGATGACAACACAACATGTAAACATCATTGAGGAAAACCAAAAACCATACAACATTTTGA	1980
CTGTAAATGAAGAGTTTGAAAACAAAAACTATGTTCAAACCGACGCCAAGCTAACGAAAA	2040
TAGCCATAGAGTTCTAAGAAGCAGATGCAACAGTTCCACGGGTTÁGTATCGTCTGTAGTA	2100
GGACCGGTCATGAGAACTCGAAAGAATCTGAAAGGAAGTAATGCATTTGAACCAGTAATT	2160
GGCCATGAT	

SEQ.I.D. No. 29 Genomic SBE gene

ATCATGGCCA ATTACTGGT					60
GACCGGTCCT ACTACAGAC					120
CTATGGCTAT TTTCGTTAG					180
CATTTACAGT CAAAATGTT	G TATGGTTTT1	GTTTTCCTC	ATGATGTTT	A CAGTGTTGTG	240
TTGTCATCTG TACTTTTGC	TATTACTTG1	TTTGAGTTA	ATGTTAAAA	A AGTGTTTATT	300
TTGCCATATT TTGTTCTCT	ATTATTATTA	TCATACATAC	ATTATTACA	A GGAAAAGACA	360
AGTACACAGA TCTTAACGTT	TATGTTCAAT	CAACTTTTGG	AGGCATTGAG	AGGTACCACA	420
AATTTTGAGT TTATGATTA	GTTCAATCTT	AGAATATGAA	TTTAACATCT	TATTATAGATG	480
CATAAAAATA GCTAATGATA	GAACATTGAC	ATTTGGCAGA	GCTTAGGGTA	TGGTATATCC	540
AACGTTAATT TAGTAATTT	TGTTACGTAC	GTATATGAAA	TATTGAATTA	ATCACATGAA	600
CGGTGGATAT TATATTATG	GTTGGCATCA	GCAAAATCAT	TGGTGTAGTT	GACTGTAGTT	660
GCAGATTTAA TAATAAAATO	GTAATTAACG	GTCGATATTA	AAATAACTCI	CATTTCAAGT	720
GGGATTAGAA CTAGTTATTA	AAAAAATGTA	TACTTTAAGT	GATTTGATGG	CATATAATTT	780
AAAGTTTTTC ATTTCATGCT	AAAATTGTTA	ATTATTGTAA	TGTAGACTGC	GACTGGAATT	840
ATTATAGTGT AAATTTATGO	ATTCAGTGTA	AAATTAAAGT	ATTGAACTTG	TCTGTTTTAG	900
AAAATACŢTT ATACTTAAA	ATAGGATTTT	GTCATGCGAA	TTTAAATTAA	TCGATATTGA	960
ACACGGAATA CCAAAATTAA	AAAGGATACA	CATGGCCTTC	ATATGAACCG	TGAACCTTTG	1020
ATAACGTGGA AGTTCAAAGA	AGGTAAAGTT	TAAGAATAAA	CTGACAAATT	AATTTCTTTT	1080
ATTTGGCCCA CTACTAAATT					1140
GAATGATATT CATTTTCAT	CCCATAAGTT	CAATTTGATT	GTCATACCAC	CCATGATGTT	1200
CTGAAAAATG CTTGGCCATT					1260
TTTAATTTGA CATGTTATTT	ATATTAGATG	ATATAATCCA	TGACCCAATA	GACAAGTGTA	1320
TTAATATTGT AACTTTGTAA					1380
AAAATAAATT ATTTTTTGAC					1440
TAAAAACAAA AAACGACTTA					1500
TTTTCCAAAT TAAATGCAGA					1560
TTTAGCCTAA CCAACGAATA					1620
GATATATA AGTAGTGACA					1680
TACCATAATC ATTTGTATTT					1740
AACTTTTAAA TATACGTATA					1800
AATCCTTAAC TATATCTGCC					1860
CATGTATTAT GTATACAAAA					1920
AGTAAGTAGA AATATAAAAA					1980
AAACTAATGG GGTCTGAGTG					2040
GTTTTTTAT AAAAAGCCAC					
GCAGCTGAAG CAAAGTACCA					2160
ACCCATTCGA GGATCTTTTC					2220
TAATTTCATG TTAATTTCAA					
ATCATCTCCT TAGTTTTTTA					
CTTGTAGAGC CATATGTAAG					
TTCAAAAATT GAGAGATGGA					2460
TAGGAGGTTA TGGAGGACAC	GGATGAGGGG	TAGAAGGTTA	GTTAGGTATT	TGAGTGTTGT	2520

CTGGCTTATC CTTTCATACT	AGTAGTCGTG	GAATTATTTG	GGTAGTTTCT	TGTTTTGTTA	2580
TTTGATCTTT GTTATTCTAT	TTTCTGTTTC	TTGTACTTCG	ATTATTGTAT	TATATATCTT	2640
GTCGTAGTTA TTGTTCCTCG	GTAAGAATGC	TCTAGCATGC	TTCCTTTAGT	GTTTTATCAT	2700
GCCTTCTTTA TATTCGCGTT	GCTTTGAAAT	GCTTTTACTT	TAGCCGAGGG	TCTATTAGAA	2760
ACAATCTCTC TATCTCGTAA	GGTAGGGGTA	AAGTCCTCAC	CACACTCCAC	TTGTGGGATT	2820
ACATTGTGTT TGTTGTTGTA	AATCAATTAT	GTATACATAA	TAAGTGGATT	TTTTACAACA	2880
CAAATACATG GTCAAGGGCA	AAGTTCTGAA	CACATAAAGG	GTTCATTATA	TGTCCAGGGA	2940
TATGATAAAA ATTGTTTCTT	TGTGAAAGTT	ATATAAGATT	TGTTATGGCT	TTTGCTGGAA	3000
ACATAATAAG TTATAATGCT	GAGATAGCTA	CTGAAGTTTG	TTTTTTCTAG	CCTTTTAAAT	3060
GTACCAATAA TAGATTCCGT	ATCGAACGAG	TATGTTTTGA	TTACCTGGTC	ATGATGTTTC	3120
TATTTTTTAC ATTTTTTTGG	TGTTGAACTG	CAATTGAAAA	TGTTGTATCC	TATGAGACGG	3180
ATAGTTGAGA ATGTGTTCTT	TGTATGGACC	TTGAGAAGCT	CAAACGCTAC	TCCAATAATT	3240
TCTATGAATT CAAATTCAGT	TTATGGCTAC	CAGTCAGTCC	AGAAATTAGG	ATATGCTGCA	3300
TATACTTGTT CAATTATACT	GTAAAATTTC	TTAAGTTCTC	AAGATATCCA	TGTAACCTCG	3360
AGAATTTCTT TGACAGGCTT	CTAGAAATAA	GATATGTTTT	CCTTCTCAAC	ATAGTACTGG	3420
ACTGAAGTTT GGATCTCAGG	AACGGTCTTG	GGATATTTCT	TCCACCCCAA	AATCAAGAGT	3480
TAGAAAGAT GAAAGGGTAT	GTTTGATAAT	TTATATGGTT	GCATGGATAG	TATATAAATA	3540
GTTGGAAAAC TTCTGGACTG	GTGCTCATGG	CATATTTGAT	CTGTGCACCG	TGTGGAGATG	3600
TCAAACATGT GTTACTTCGT	TCCGCCAATT	TATAATACCT	TAACTTGGGA	AAGACAGCTC	3660
TTTACTCCTG TGGGCATTTG	TTATTTGAAT	TACAATCTTT	ATGAGCATGG	TGTTTTCACA	3720
TTATCAACTT CTTTCATGTG	GTATATAACA	GTTTTTAGCT	CCGTTAATAC	CTTTCTTCTT	3780
TTTGATATAA ACTAACTGTG	GTGCATTGCT	TGCBKKKATG	AAGCACAGTT	CAGCTATTTC	3840
CGCTGTTTTG ACCGATGACG	ACAATTCGAC	AATGGCACCC	CTAGAGGAAG	ATGTCAAGAC	3900
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CLAIMS

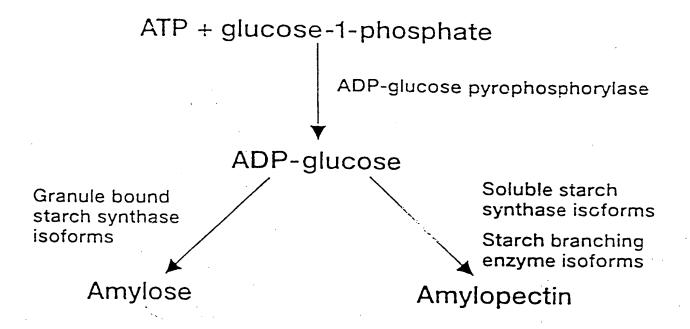
- 1. A method of affecting enzymatic activity in a plant (or a cell, a tissue or an organ thereof) comprising expressing in the plant (or a cell, a tissue or an organ thereof) a nucleotide sequence wherein the nucleotide sequence codes, partially or completely, for an intron in a sense orientation; and wherein the nucleotide sequence does not contain a sequence that is sense to an exon sequence normally associated with the intron.
- 2. A method according to claim 1 wherein starch branching enzyme activity is affected and/or wherein the levels of amylopectin are affected and/or the composition of starch is changed.
- 3. A method of affecting enzymatic activity in a starch producing organism (or a cell, a tissue or an organ thereof) comprising expressing in the starch producing organism (or a cell, a tissue or an organ thereof) a nucleotide sequence wherein the nucleotide sequence codes, partially or completely, for an intron in a sense orientation; wherein the nucleotide sequence does not contain a sequence that is sense to an exon sequence normally associated with the intron; and wherein starch branching enzyme activity is affected and/or the levels of amylopectin are affected and/or the composition of starch is changed.
 - 4. A method according to any one of claims 1 to 3 wherein the nucleotide sequence does not contain a sequence that is sense to an exon sequence.
 - 5. A method according to any one of the preceding claims wherein the enzymatic activity is reduced or eliminated.
- 6. A method according to any one of the preceding claims wherein the nucleotide sequence codes for at least substantially all of at least one intron in a sense orientation.

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- 7. A method according to any one of the preceding claims wherein the nucleotide sequence codes for all of at least one intron in a sense orientation.
- 8. A method according to any one of the preceding claims wherein the nucleotide sequence comprises the sequence shown as any one of SEQ.I.D. No. 1 to SEQ.I.D. No. 13 or a variant, derivative or homologue thereof, including combinations thereof.
 - 9. A method according to any one of the preceding claims wherein the nucleotide sequence is expressed by a promoter having a sequence shown as SEQ.I.D. No. 14 or a variant, derivative or homologue thereof.
 - 10. A sense sequence comprising the nucleotide sequence as defined in claim 8 or a variant, derivative or homologue thereof.
- 15 11. A promoter having a sequence shown as SEQ.I.D. No. 14, or a variant, derivative or homologue thereof.
 - 12. A promoter according to claim 11 in combination with a gene of interest ("GOI").
 - 13. A construct capable of comprising or expressing the invention according to any one of claims 10 to 12.
- 14. A vector comprising or expressing the invention according to any one of claims 10 to 13.
 - 15. A combination of nucleotide sequences comprising a first nucleotide sequence coding for a recombinant enzyme; and a second nucleotide sequence which corresponds to an intron in a sense orientation; wherein the intron is an intron that is associated with a genomic gene encoding an enzyme corresponding to the recombinant enzyme; and wherein the second nucleotide sequence does not contain a sequence that is sense to an exon sequence normally associated with the intron.

- 16. A cell, tissue or organ comprising or expressing the invention according to any one of claims 10 to 15.
- 17. A transgenic starch producing organism comprising or expressing the invention according to any one of claims 10 to 16.
 - 18. A transgenic starch producing organism according to claim 17 wherein the organism is a plant.
- 10 19. A starch obtained from the invention according to any one of the preceding claims.
 - 20. pBEA11 (NCIMB 40754).
- 15 21. An intron nucleotide sequence that is obtainable from λ -SBE 3.2 (NCIMB 40751) or λ -SBE 3.4 (NCIMB 40752) or a variant, derivative or homologue thereof.
- 22. A method of expressing a recombinant protein or enzyme in a host organism comprising expressing a nucleotide sequence coding for the recombinant protein or enzyme; and expressing a further nucleotide sequence; wherein the further nucleotide sequence codes, partially or completely, for an intron in a sense orientation; wherein the intron is an intron normally associated with the genomic gene encoding a protein or an enzyme corresponding to the recombinant protein or enzyme; and wherein the further nucleotide sequence does not contain a sequence that is sense to an exon sequence normally associated with the intron.



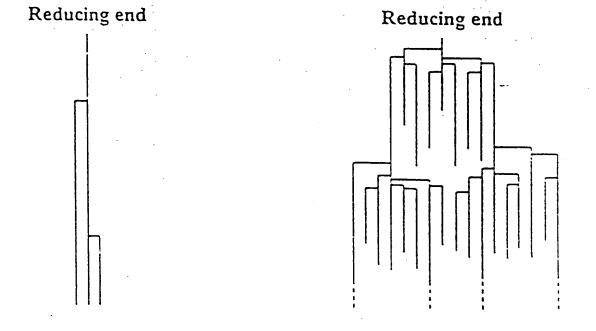


Fig 1

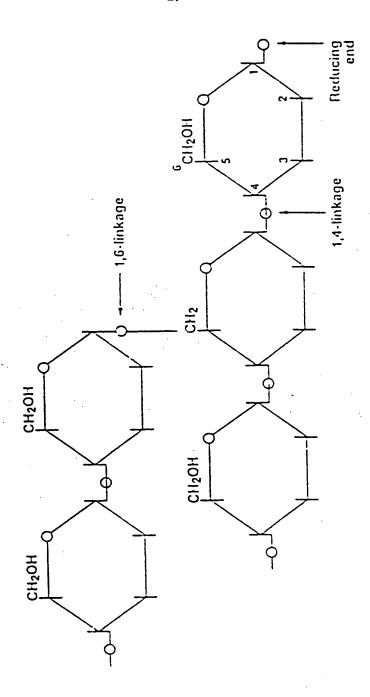


Fig 2

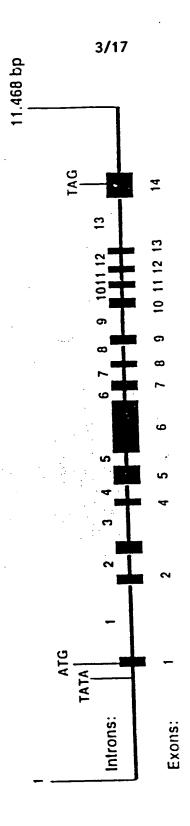
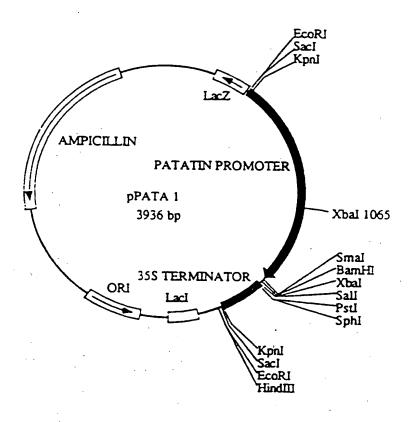


fig 3



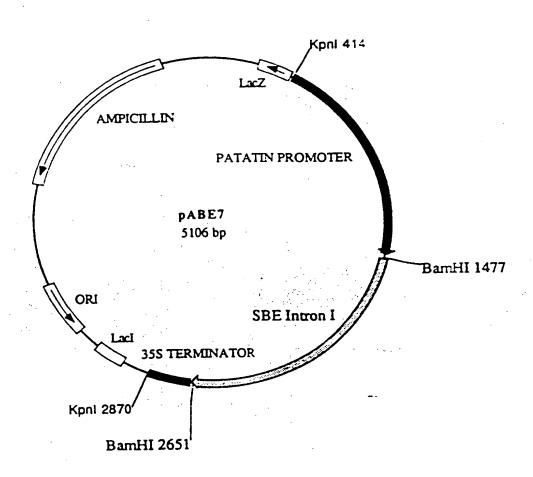


Fig 5

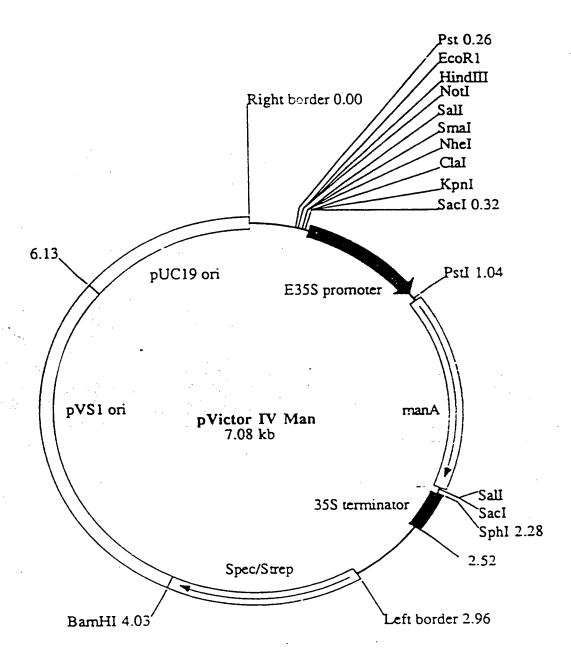


Fig 6

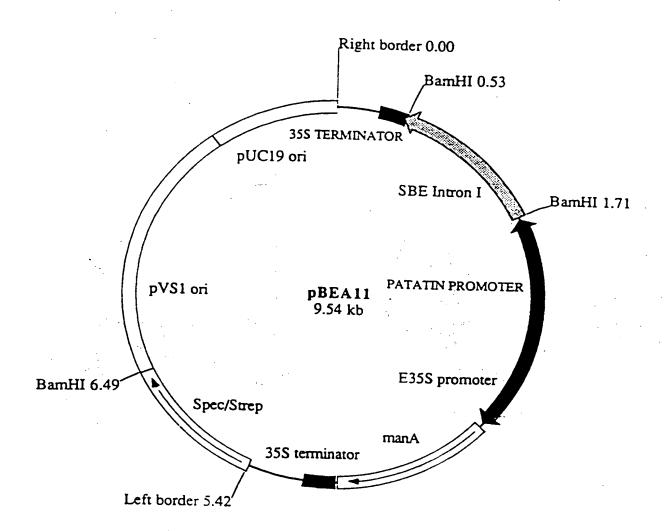


Fig 7

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CT	'ATGGCTA'	TTTTCGT	TAGCTTO	GCGTC	GTTTG	AACAT	GTTTT	GTTT	CAAACT	CII	180
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Q L M A I M E H S Y Y G S F G Y H V T N CTTTTTTGCTGTGAGCAGTAGATATGGAAACCCGGAGGACCTAAAGTATCTGATAGATA	
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3 U C T C T O T T T T T T T T T T T T T T T	55
A H S L G L Q V L V D V V H S H A S N N TGTCACTGATGGCCTCAATGGCTTTGATATTGGCCAAGGTTCTCAAGAATCCTACTTTC	
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V T D G L N G F D I G Q G S Q E S Y F H TGCTGGAGAGCGAGGGTACCATAAGTTGTGGGATAGCAGGCTGTTCAACTATGCCAATT	
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A G E R G Y H K L W D S R L F N Y A N W GGAGGTTCTTCGTTTCCTTCTTTCCAACTTGAGGTGGTGGCTAGAAGAGTATAACTTTG E V L R F L L S N L R W W L E E Y N F D CGGATTTCGATTTGATGGAATAACTTCTATGCTGTATGTTCATCATGGAATCAATATGG G F R F D G I T S M L Y V H H G I N M G	582
A G E R G Y H K L W D S R L F N Y A N W GGAGGTTCTTCGTTTCCTTCTTCCAACTTGAGGTGGTGGCTAGAAGAGTATAACTTTG E V L R F L L S N L R W W L E E Y N F D CGGATTTCGATTTGATGGAATAACTTCTATGCTGTATGTTCATCATGGAATCAATATGG G F R F D G I T S M L Y V H H G I N M G ATTTACAGGAAACTATAATGAGTATTTCAGCGAGGCTACAGATGTTGATGCTGTGTCT	
A G E R G Y H K L W D S R L F N Y A N W GGAGGTTCTTCGTTTCCTTCTTTCCAACTTGAGGTGGTGGCTAGAAGAGTATAACTTTG E V L R F L L S N L R W W L E E Y N F D CGGATTTCGATTTGATGGAATAACTTCTATGCTGTATGTTCATCATGGAATCAATATGG G F R F D G I T S M L Y V H H G I N M G GATTTACAGGAAACTATAATGAGTATTTCAGCGAGGCTACAGATGTTGATGCTGTGTCT F T G N Y N E Y F S E A T D V D A V V	582 581
A G E R G Y H K L W D S R L F N Y A N W GGAGGTTCTTCGTTCTTTCCAACTTGAGGTGGTGGCTAGAAGAGTATAACTTTG E V L R F L L S N L R W W L E E Y N F D CGGATTTCGATGTGATGAACATATGG G F R F D G I T S M L Y V H H G I N M G CATTTACAGGAACTATATGAGGTATTTCAGGGAAACTATATGGGTCT F T G N Y N E Y F S E A T D V D A V V Y ATTAATGTTGCCAAATGATGATGCTGTTATTGCCG	582
A G E R G Y H K L W D S R L F N Y A N W GGAGGTTCTTCGTTTCCTTCTTCCAACTTGAGGTGGTGGCTAGAAGAGTATAACTTTG E V L R F L L S N L R W W L E E Y N F D CGGATTTCGATTTGATGGAATAACTTCTATGCTGTATGTTCATCATGGAATCAATATGG G F R F D G I T S M L Y V H H G I N M G GATTTACAGGAAACTATAATGAGTATTTCAGCGAGGCTACAGATGTTGATGCTGTGGTCT	582 581

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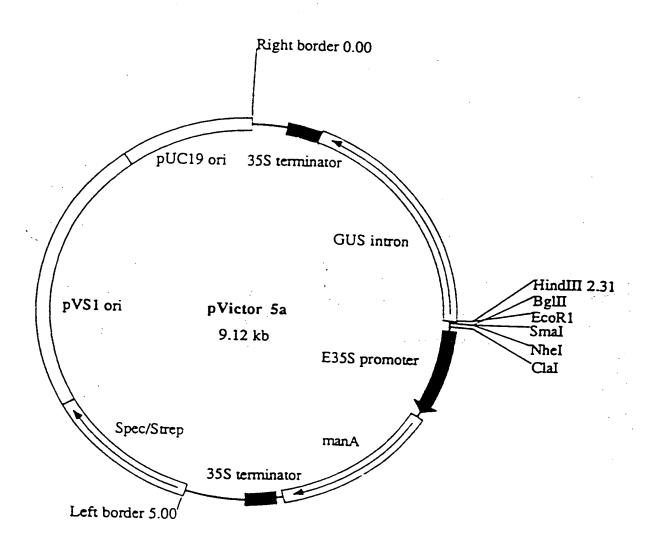


Fig 9

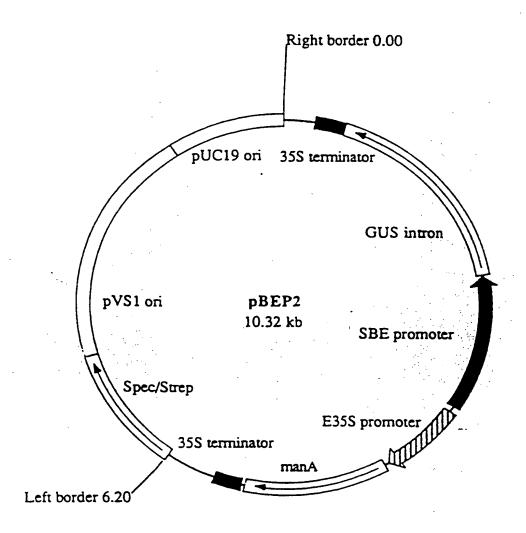


Fig 10

PLf/EP95/03053

INDICATIONS RELATING TO A DEPOSITED MICROORGANISM

(PCT Rule 13bis)

A. The indications made below relate to the microorganism ref	erred to in the description
on page 19 , lines 18	to 2 7
B. IDENTIFICATION OF DEPOSIT	Further deposits are identified on an additional sheet
Name of depositary institution	
The National Collections of Industrial	and Marine Bacteria Limited (NCIMB)
Address of depositary institution (including postal code and country)	
23 St. Machar Drive Aberdeen	
Scotland	
AB2 1RY	
United Kingdom	
Date of deposit	Accession Number
13 July 1995	NCIMB 40754, NCIMB 40751, NCIMB 40752
C. ADDITIONAL INDICATIONS (leave blank if not applicab	le) This information is continued on an additional sheet
microorganism will be made available un	t legislation, a sample of the deposited til the publication of the mention of the he date on which the application has been withdrawn, only by the issue of such a rson requesting the sample. (Rule 28(4)
D. DESIGNATED STATES FOR WHICH INDICATION	ONS ARE MADE (if the indications are not for all designated States)
	•
E. SEPARATE FURNISHING OF INDICATIONS (leav	e blank if not applicable)
	Bureau later (specify the general nature of the indications e.g., "Accession
Number of Deposit*)	
For receiving Office use only	For International Bureau use only
This sheet was received with the international application	This sheet was received by the International Bureau on:
Authorized officer	Authorized officer
□ L.R. Peiher	
	, , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , ,
Form PCT/RO/134 (July 1992)	

BUDAPEST TREATY ON THE INTERNATIONAL RECOGNITION OF THE DEPOSIT OF MICROGRAMISM FOR THE PURPOSES OF PATENT PROCEDURE

PCT/EP 9 5 / 0 3 0 5 3

Danisco Biotechnology gebrogade 1 P O Box 17 DK-1001 Copenhagen K Denmark

INTERNATIONAL FORM

RECEIPT IN THE CASE OF AN ORIGINAL DEPOSIT issued pursuant to Rule 7.1 by the INTERNATIONAL DEPOSITARY AUTHORITY identified at the bottom of this page

I. IDENTIFICATION OF THE MICROORCEDISM	
I. IDENTIFICATION OF THE MICHOGOME PIST	
Identification reference given by the DEPOSITOR:	Accession number given by the INTERNATIONAL ISPOSITARY AUTHORITY:
Escnerichia coli DH5&-pBEA11	NCIMB 40754
II. SCIENTIFIC DESCRIPTION AND/OR PROPOSED	TAXONOMIC DESIGNATION
The microorganism identified under I above w	as accompanied by:
a scientific description	
X a proposed taxonomic designation	
(Hark with a cross where applicable)	
III. RECEIPT AND ACCEPTANCE	
This International Depositary Authority accumulation which was received by it onld July 1995 (d	epts the microorganism identified under I above. ate of the original deposit) 1
IV. RECEIPT OF REQUEST FOR CONVERSION	
Deposituary manner to	
V. INTERNATIONAL DEPOSITARY AUTHORITY	
Name: NCIMB Ltd 23 St Machar Drive	Signature(s) of person(s) having the power to represent the International Depositary Authority or of authorized official(s):
Aberdeen Scotland Address: UK AB2 1RY	Date: 21 July 1995 Tevence Dands

Where Rule 6.4(d) applies, such date is the date on which the status of international depositary authority was acquired.

Form BP/4 (sole page)

BUDAPEST TREATY ON THE INTERNATIONAL RECOGNITION OF THE DEPOSIT OF MICROGRAMISMS FOR THE PURPOSES OF PATENT PROCEDURE

Danisco Biotechnology Langebrogade 1 P O Box 17 DK-1001 Copenhagen K Denmark

INTERNATIONAL FORM

PCT/EP96/03053

VIABILITY STATE:ENT issued pursuant to Rule 10.2 by the INTERNATIONAL DEPOSITARY AUTHORITY identified on the following page

NAME AND ADDRESS OF THE PARTY TO WHOM THE VIBILITY STATEMENT IS ISSUED

	·
I. DEPOSITOR	II. IDENTIFICATION OF THE MICROGROANISM
Name: As above	Accession number given by the INTERNATIONAL DEPOSITARY AUTHORITY:
Address:	NCIMB 40754 Date of the deposit or of the transfer:
	13 July 1995
III. VIABILITY STATEMENT	
The viability of the microorganism identified un	der II above was tested
on 13 July 1995	2. On that date, the said microorganism was
X viable	
no longer viable	

Indicate the date of the original deposit or, where a law deposit or a transfer has been made, the most recent relevant date (date of the new deposit or date of the transfer).

In the cases referred to in Rule 10.2(a)(ii) and (iii), refer to the most recent wiability toot.

Mark with a cross the applicable box.

PCT/EP96/03053

CONDITIONS UNDER WHICH THE VIABILITY	TES. HAS BEEN PERSONNEL
•	
V. INTERNATIONAL DEPOSITARY AUTHORITY	
Name:	Signature(s) of person(s) having the power to represent the International Depositary
NCIMB Ltd	to represent the International Depositary Authority or of authorited official(s):
Address: 23 St Machar Drive	Torence Dando

⁴ Fill in if the information has been requested and if the results of the test were negative.

BUDAPEST TREATY ON THE INTERNATIONAL RECOGNITION OF THE DEPOSIT OF MICROGRAMISMS FOR THE PURPOSES OF PATENT PROCEDURE

DR A Buchter-Larsen Panisco Biotechnology ingebrogade 1 P O Box 17 EK-1001 Copenhagen

Denmark

INTERNATIONAL FORM

PCT/EP 96 / 03 05 3

RECEIPT IN THE CASE OF AN ORIGINAL DEPOSIT issued pursuant to Rule 7.1 by the INTERNATIONAL DEPOSITARY AUTHORITY identified at the bottom of this pag

I. IDENTIFICATION OF THE MICROORGANISH
Identification reference given by the Accession number given by the DEPOSITOR: INTERNATIONAL DEPOSITARY AUTHORITY:
Bacteriophage & EMBL3 SP6/T7 &SBEB.2 NCIMB 40751
II. SCIENTIFIC DESCRIPTION AND/OR PROPOSED TAXONOMIC DESIGNATION
The microorganism identified under I above was accompanied by:
a scientific description
a proposed taxonomic designation
(Mark with a cross where applicable)
III. RECEIPT AND ACCEPTANCE
This International Depositary Authority accepts the microorganism identified under I above, which was received by it on 13 July 1995(date of the original deposit).
IV. RECEIPT OF REQUEST FOR CONVERSION
The microorganism identified under I above was received by this International Depositary Authority on (date of the original deposit) and a request to convert the original deposit to a deposit under the Budapest Treaty was received by it on . (date of receipt of request for conversion)
V. INTERNATIONAL DEPOSITARY AUTHORITY
Name: NCIMB Ltd Signature(s) of person(s) having the power to represent the International Depository Authority or of authorized official(s): Address: UK AB2 150 Date: Date

where Rule 6.4(d) applies, such date is the date on which the status of \pm ternational depositary authority was acquired.

Form BP/4 (sole page)

BUDAREST TREATY ON THE INTERNATIONAL RECOGNITION OF THE DEPOSIT OF MICROGRAMISMS FOR THE PURPOSES OF PATENT PROCEDURE

Dr A Buchter-Larsen Danisco Biotechnology Langebrogade 1 P G Box 17 DK-1001 Copenhagen K Denmark

INTERNATIONAL FORM

VIABILITY STATE: ENT issue! pursuant to Rule 11.1 by the INTERNATIONAL DEPOSITARY AUTHORITY identified on the following page

NAME AND ADDRESS OF THE PARTY TO WHOM THE VIABILITY STATEMENT IS ISSUED

I. DEPOSITOR	II. IDENTIFICATION OF THE MIDFOORDANISM
Name: As above	Accession number given by the INTERNATIONAL DEPOSITANCE AUTHORITY:
Address:	HCIMB 40751
<u>.</u>	Date of the deposit or of the transfer:
	13 July 1995
	<u> </u>
III. VIABILITY STATEMENT	
The viability of the microorganism identified upon 19 July 1995	ider II above was tested 2. On that date, the said microorganism was
x viable	
no longer viable	

Form BP/9 (first page)

Indicate the date of the original deposit or, where a new deposit or a transfer has been made, the most recent relevant date (date of the new deposit or date of the transfer).

In the cases referred to in Rule 10.2(a)(ii) and (iii), refer to the most recent Wiability toot.

Mark with a cross the applicable box.

PCT/EP96/03053

TV. CONDITIONS UNDER WHICH THE VIABILITY T	EST RAS SEEN PERFORMED
V. INTERNATIONAL DEPOSITARY AUTHORITY	
Name:	Signature(s) of person(s) having the power to represent the International Depositary
NCIMB Ltd Address: 23 St Machar Drive	Authority or of authorized official(s):
Aberdeen Scotland LR: AB2 1RY	Date: 20 July 1995

⁴ Fill in if the information has been requested and if the results of the test were negative.

BUDAPEST TREATY OF THE INTERNATIONAL RECOGNITION OF THE DEPOSIT OF MICROORGANISMS FOR THE PURPOSES OF PATENT PROCEDUP

Dr & Buchter-Larsen
Danisco Biotechnology
Langebrogade 1
Box 17
DK-1001 Copenhagen
Denmark

INTERNATIONAL FORM

PCT/EP 96 / 03053

RECEIPT IN THE CASE OF AN ORIGINAL DEPOSIT... Issued pursuant to Rule 7.1 by the INTERNATIONAL PURSITARY AUTHORITY identified at the bottom of this page.

NAME AND ADDRESS OF DEPOSITOR

I. IDENTIFICATION OF THE HICROORGANISH
Identification reference given by the Accession number given by the DEPOSITOR: INTERNATIONAL DEPOSITARY AUTHORITY:
Bacteriophage AEMBL3 SP6/T7 ASBE3.4 NCIMB 40752
· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·
II. SCIENTIFIC DESCRIPTION AND/OR PROPOSED TAXONOMIC DESIGNATION
The microorganism identified under I above was accompanied by:
a scientific description
A proposed taxonomic designation
(Mark with a cross where applicable)
III. RECEIPT AND ACCEPTANCE
This International Depositary Authority accepts the microorganism identified under I above, which was received by it on[3 July 1995(date of the original deposit).
IV. RECEIPT OF REQUEST FOR CONVERSION
The microorganism identified under I above was received by this International Depositary Authority on (date of the original deposit) and a request to convert the original deposit to a deposit under the Budapest Treaty was received by it on . (date of receipt of request for conversion)
V. INTERNATIONAL DEPOSITARY AUTHORITY
Name: NCIMB Ltd Signature(s) of person(s) having the power to represent the International Depositary Authority or of authorized official(s):
Address: UK AP2 Date: 20 July 1995

Where Rule 6.4(d) applies, such date is the date on which the status of international depositary authority was acquired.

Form BP/4 (sole page)

PCT/EP96/03053

BUDAPEST TREATY ON THE INTERNATIONAL RECOGNITION OF THE DEPOSIT OF MICROPROMISMS FOR THE PURPOSES OF PATENT PROCEDURE

Dr A Buchter-Larsen Danisco Biotechnology Langebrogade 1 P O Box 17 DK-1001 Copenhagen K Denmark

INTERNATIONAL FORM

VIABILITY STATEMENT issued pursuant to Rule 10.2 by the INTERNATIONAL DEPOSITARY AUTHORITY identified on the following page

NAME AND ADDRESS OF THE PARTY TO WHOM THE VIABILITY STATEMENT IS ISSUED

	
I. DEPOSITOR	II. IDENTIFICATION OF THE MICROGRAMISM
Name: As above Address:	Accession number given by the INTERNATIONAL DEFOSITARY AUTHORITY: NOIMB 40752 Date of the deposit or of the transfer: 13 July 1995
III. VIABILITY STATEMENT	
The viability of the microorganism iden 19 July 1995 X viable	entified under II above was tested 2. On that date, the said microorganism was
no longer viable	

Form 3P/9 (first page)

Indicate the date of the original deposit or, where a new deposit or a transfer has been made, the most recent relevant date (date of the new deposit or date of the transfer).

In the cases referred to in Rule 10.2(a)(ii) and (iii), refer to the most recent wiscillity toot.

Mark with a cross the applicable box.

PCT/EP96/03053

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. . .

NCIMB Ltd

Address:

Name:

23 St Machar Drive Aberdeen Scotland Signature(s) of person(s) having the rower to represent the International Depositary Authority or of authorited official(s):

Date

20 July 1995

Form 32/3 (second and last page)

 $^{^4}$ Fill in if the information has been requested and if the results of the test were negative.